



SLIMMING DOWN WARDROBE RAISES £23K FOR CANCER CHARITY



Kerry Morgan and her Slimming World members

GENEROUS slimmers across Dudley raised more than £23,000 for charity by donating the clothes they've slimmed out of.

About 25 Slimming World groups in the area collected 921 bags of the clothes, shoes and accessories from members to give to The Big Slimming World Clothes Throw in support of Cancer Research UK.

Each bag was worth around £25 to the charity, raising £23,025 in total.

The fundraiser aims to increase awareness of how keeping a healthy weight helps reduce the risk of developing some types of cancer.

Kerry Morgan, team developer, who runs the weekly group in Oldswinford, said she was proud of the members' fundraising ef-

forts. She said: "The members never fail to amaze me with their weight loss results week after week and it has been great to see so many bags of clothes donated across the whole of Dudley."

"This year's Clothes Throw has been a fantastic success, and I can't believe just how many bags my members, their friends and families have managed to collect."

Celebrity

"Our group is always buzzing and when we collected the bags up and saw what was a phenomenal amount there were altogether, and we realised what a difference we could make, the atmosphere was just electric."

The event has been supported by singer

and celebrity Peter Andre, a joint ambassador for the campaign and also the founder of his own Cancer Research UK fund after losing his older brother, Andrew Andre, to cancer in 2012.

Peter paid tribute to the Dudley slimmers, saying: "I'm delighted to be supporting the Big Slimming World Clothes Throw campaign this year, and so thankful to the slimmers in Dudley for being so generous in their support of the campaign."

Last year slimmers across the UK raised £2.1 million through donations and this year it's hoped the event will smash that target and raise £3 million for Cancer Research UK.

HOUSING

Carnegie library is converted into flats

THE grade II listed Old Library in Stourbridge has been converted into flats.

The Carnegie library is now offering the apartments from around £125,000. Estate agents Walton and Hipkiss describe them as 'full of character and charm'.

They contain the original stained glass windows throughout the central staircase and entrance hall.

The library was built in 1905 and paid for by Andrew Carnegie, who at the time was the richest man in the world.

In the 1930s an extension was built to the library, including the distinctive clock tower. In 2009 it underwent a renovation by BBL Architects, who took over most of the 26,000 sq ft of space.

ENVIRONMENT

Recycling banks are now being removed

COUNCIL chiefs in Dudley are to withdraw the borough's mini recycling centres, which have been dotted around the borough for 15 years, partly because of fly-tipping at the sites.

The authority has confirmed the remaining banks will be removed.

Dudley's environment services boss Councillor Karen Shakespeare said: "We now have a robust fortnightly kerbside recycling service available to households across the borough, making these bins surplus to requirement."

STABBING

Family plea over murder suspect

THE DEVASTATED family of a murdered father-of-two have demanded justice as his widow spoke for the first time about the impact of his killing.

Detectives have named the prime suspect in Mansoor Mahmood's murder as Niron Parker-Lee, and a reward of £6,000 is on offer for information about him.

Mr Mahmood died after being stabbed in the stomach in Brierley Hill's High Street last October.

Police last night revealed they still do not know the motive behind the attack or the whereabouts of prime suspect Parker-Lee

● Broken - See page 4

Austin clashes with council over car park scheme MP JOINS FIGHT TO PROTECT PARK

ANGRY residents launched a protest against plans to build on a park as part of an extension of a council depot.

People living near the Lister Road waste depot in Dudley are furious over proposals to build a car park on a stretch of open green space next to the site. The area has several football pitches and dozens of people have been 'horrified' by the prospect of seeing part of the land covered in concrete.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin criticised the council last week over the plans and has now met concerned residents as he stepped up his campaign for the car park proposals to be dropped.

Both the Labour MP and residents have made it clear they will not let the development go ahead without a fight.

Mr Austin has gone head-to-head with the Conservative-controlled authority, telling chiefs to get 'get their hands off the sports pitches and open space'.

However, Dudley Council has said all football pitches on the land will survive but will be moved to free up space for the car park.

Controversial

Council bosses want to redevelop the Lister Road depot, which houses its waste services staff, gritting trucks, and pothole teams, as part of a £1 million project to bring it up to scratch.

The controversial scheme includes building the new car park, with room for 200 vehicles, on the land next door.

Planning documents state the pitches will be moved but that there will still be room to play football on the land.

Dudley Council leader Patrick Harley has said the redevelopment is needed to upgrade the depot.

The move forms part of a proposed shake-up that could see the Stourbridge tip in Birmingham Street close and Leys depot

Report by Richard Guttridge

in Brierley Hill become the main waste centre for the borough.

Dudley Council leisure boss Karen Shakespeare said consultations with residents would form part of the planning process, but insisted the depot extension would improve the area.

She said: "Centralising staff to the site will make working more efficient and contribute to council savings, while the new car park will reduce on-street parking during weekend and evening events which will benefit residents."

But Mr Austin said the plans should be scrapped and said: "Residents are very concerned about the impact of the council's plans to redevelop the Lister Road site, not just in relation to losing half the park but the impact building a new office block will have on their houses."

"There is concern about a loss of privacy. These plans shouldn't be going ahead and certainly not on the football pitch."

"There are empty office blocks in the town centre that would be better rather than building a new office block across the road from houses."



Dudley North MP Ian Austin, kneeling centre, joins residents opposed the car park plans

INSIDE

ROADSHOW'S £1M DISCOVERY



PAGE 13

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2 CONTENTS

PETER RHODES	6
LETTERS	7
PROUD TO BE LOCAL	17 - 24
THE TICKET	25 - 32
TV	28 - 30
BRAIN GYM	31
MOTORING	33 & 34
SPORT	39 & 40
CONTACT US	

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Thursday, June 29, 2017

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Hospitals 'among worst for stillbirths'

THREE Black Country hospital trusts have been named among the worst in the country for stillbirths and babies dying within 28 days of being born.

A report claims that death rates among babies born at maternity units in Wolverhampton, Dudley and Sandwell are at least 10 per cent higher than the national average. But health chiefs have hit back, saying they work in a highly deprived area where people generally lead healthier lifestyles.

Wolverhampton also argues its specialist status means it takes on riskier cases.

The three trusts are among 21 out of 165 across the UK which have been traffic-lighted as 'red', and ordered to take action to improve.

Overall, stillbirths fell by eight per cent between 2013 to 2015 from 4.20 to 3.87 per 1,000 births. But the authors of the report said that the rates still remain high compared with similar European countries and that there was 'significant variation' across Britain.

Review

The problem has been highlighted in the new 'Mothers and Babies: Reducing Risk through Audits and Confidential Enquiries across the UK' report, based on births from January to December 2015.

Dr Brad Manktelow, of the University of Leicester, who led the review, said: "Those trusts and

health boards identified with high rates of stillbirth or neonatal death rates should review the quality of the care they provide."

Experts grouped broadly similar organisations by their type and size to compare mortality rates.

Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, which serves Kidderminster, was also in the 'red' category.

Diane Wake, chief executive for The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, said: "Any stillbirth or neonatal death is a tragedy for the families involved and, whenever one occurs within the trust, a team of senior midwives, obstetricians and other clinicians carries out a full review into the circumstances."

Public honour heroes both past and present

HUNDREDS gathered at Himley Park to enjoy a host of attractions and show their respect to the Armed Forces.

There was live music, military vehicles, meet and greets and exhibitions at the famous venue to celebrate Armed Forces Day, with the community coming out in droves to honour servicemen and women.

The event was held on Sunday afternoon and gave members of the public a chance to learn more about the Armed Forces, watch veterans awarded badges as well as simply enjoy the entertainment.

Mayor of Dudley Councillor Dave Tyler spoke of his delight at the turnout for the event, which he called 'the highlight of any mayor's year'.

"This was an event I was looking forward to when I became mayor and it has really lived up to my expectations," he said.

"I think it is the highlight of any mayor's year because it really does bring people together for all of the right reasons."

"We owe a lot to the Armed Forces and this gives us a chance to thank them for all they do."

Charities

"I am glad to welcome national and local charities tied to the Armed Forces to Himley Park and I hope people give generously."

Live music on the day came from the Land Girls and the RAF Cosford Voluntary Band, while fun fair rides and a vintage tea room kept the young and older generations entertained.

Jack Keiras, 67, of Sedgley, who served in the Catering Corps for 12 years from 1976, said: "We need the Armed Forces more than ever and I think people are aware of that."

"That is what has made this years event so special and you can really see that people are taking a keen interest in thanking the Armed Forces personnel."



Lance Corporal Gareth Morris of the Army Reserves



Cadets Hayley Lysek (left) and Steph Swider, of Dudley



Black Country At War member, dressed as South Staffs WWII British Airborne serviceman, Mick Holmes, of Stourbridge

Shop loses its alcohol licence after complaints

A SHOP closed down due to anti-social behaviour has had its alcohol licence revoked after council chiefs criticised its 'deplorable reputation'.

The closure order was brought against Liquor World, in Bromley Lane, Kingswinford, earlier this month.

But at a licensing meeting last Tuesday, councillors said that 'no assurance' had been given that things would improve at the site upon its re-opening.

Committee members were concerned about the plummeting reputation of the store and about its proximity to nearby The Crestwood School, where staff had complained youngsters have allegedly purchased illegal goods.

The meeting also heard from West Midlands Police representatives how Liquor World had allegedly sold alcohol to a 15-year-old Trading Standards test volunteer.

It was revealed that raids on the store discovered cannabis, Nitrous Oxide equipment, fake cigarettes and prescription tablets at a street value of up to £6,200.

Concerned

Chair councillor Colin Elcock announced in his summary: "The committee is very concerned at this premises. It has a significant history of selling alcohol to under-age children and a reputation for dealing illicit substances such as cannabis, nitrous oxide and counterfeit tobacco. It has gained this shop a deplorable reputation."

"Therefore we are revoking the premises' licence."

The store had been closed since a court order was given on June 12 and councillors added that the area had 'definitely improved' since the closure.

It is set to re-open, without its alcohol licence, on Tuesday. Landlord Mr Mirza Ali is in the process of forfeiting the lease from existing tenants.

Gary Pons, representing owner Mr Ali - who has owned the premises since 1983, managing it for 25 years - said the first Mr Ali had become aware of the alleged illegal sales and anti-social behaviour was when he received the closing order. He said: "It was the intention to find another tenant for the premises."

Liquor World has 21 days to appeal against the revoke of the alcohol licence.

Man denies murder of girl in wardrobe

AN unemployed man has denied the murder of a 17-year-old girl whose body was found in a cling film-wrapped wardrobe at a Brierley Hill flat.

Ashley Foster, of Highgate Road, pleaded not guilty to murdering Megan Bills between April 13 and 20 when he appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court last week. The 24-year-old has admitted preventing the lawful and decent burial of Miss Bills between April 15 and May 5. Her body was discovered at the flat in Highgate Road, Brierley Hill.

Foster was remanded in custody and is expected to stand trial on January 8.

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Three new Argos stores are to be opened soon

THREE new Argos shops will be coming to the region over the coming months.

Branches of the popular retail company will be arriving in Sainsbury's, Ambleside on July 26, Blackheath on August 2 and Kidderminster on August 9.

The new Argos shops will offer thousands of popular products for immediate pick up, with 20,000 products also available to be ordered to collect in-store within opening hours and 20,000 extra products available for home delivery.

There will also be eBay collection points so buyers can collect their eBay purchases.

The move comes after Sainsbury's acquired Home Retail Group, which owns Argos and is part of its strategy to help its customers shop whenever and wherever they want.

The combination of Sainsbury's and Argos aims to give customers more choice across different product ranges.

Leigh Baxter, West Midlands regional manager for Argos, said: "We are really proud to be introducing shoppers to our new-look stores within Sainsbury's and give them access to the things they want quickly and easily."

"Shoppers increasingly browse and buy online via PCs, tablets and other mobile devices, while still wanting the immediacy of a local store to pick up their purchases."

£500 charity cash taken from gym

HUNDREDS of pounds of charity donations have been stolen from a gym.

Around £500 is thought to have been taken from Gymphobics on High Street, Halesowen, a ladies-only gym.

The cash had been donated by members for cancer charity Macmillan and Edward's Trust, which support bereaved parents and was kept in money bags and envelopes a locker. Some cash also belonged to the gym.

Someone is believed to have sneaked in to the gym on Wednesday (June 21), between 11.45am and 12.15pm.

Manager Andrea Withers said a key had been taken from the gym to gain access to the locker. The theft has been reported to the police.

Park gathering in memory of Jo Cox

A BLACK Country park will be full of music and community activities on Sunday when Dudley's Great Get Together takes place in Grange Park. The event was inspired by murdered MP Jo Cox. It will run noon to 4pm.

Shopkeeper 'target' of machete attack



Police at the scene Pic: @SnapperSK

A SHOPKEEPER was attacked by a gang wielding baseball bats and a machete in broad daylight in Lye High Street.

The man, named locally as Mohammed Taz, aged 36, suffered head injuries in the attack at around 9.30am on Friday.

Shocked workers from neighbouring businesses described seeing five men wearing balaclavas and armed with weapons pile out of a car and head into The Fruit Shop Mr Taz has run for more than 20 years. He ran to the Nisa shop across the road before

the police were called as the attackers fled in a black car. Police said it was thought to be a 'targeted attack'.

Sheila Wade, who runs a hairdressers nearby, said: "The car pulled up directly outside, a black people carrier with no registration plates. Five men got out, dressed in black and wearing balaclavas. They had four baseball bats with red tape on and a machete. They meant business."

Mr Taz's sister, who did not give her name, said: "He said five of them came with a sword. He legged it into the Nisa shop."

Police spokesman Brigg Ford said: "Police were alerted at 9.30am to a shop in Lye High Street during which a man was attacked with a machete."

"It's understood this was a targeted attack as the result of an on-going dispute and not a random attack - there is not deemed to be any risk to the public."

"A 36-year-old man has been taken to hospital with head injuries, his condition is not believed to be life threatening."

A man was arrested but later released without charge.

DY5 zone aims to attract thousands of new jobs

THE launch of a multi-million pound plan aimed at bringing thousands of jobs and more than 300 businesses to Dudley has been launched.

The DY5 Business and Innovation Enterprise Zone covers 170 acres of land at Blackbrook Valley Industrial Estate and Pennsnett, as well as office space on the Waterfront.

The development includes plans for improved transport links and is expected to see £589 million ploughed into the region's economy each year. It is hoped it will create 7,000 jobs over 25 years.

Business leaders and council bosses were at the Cophorne Hotel in Brierley Hill on Thursday to see it launched, where a key-note speech was made by West Midlands Mayor Andy Street.

Councillor Patrick Harley, leader of Dudley Council, said: "These are very impressive plans that will put Dudley on the map."

"We want to send a message to businesses that we are open for business, that we have exciting opportunities for them and they are welcome here."

"This is not just an opportunity for office space or a place for technology businesses to work, we also want industrial businesses to come here, we have such a rich heritage for that in the Black Country it would be great to see it continue."

Opportunities

"These are long-term plans but they also include opportunities in the short term for businesses."

The Government-supported initiative attracts firms by offering a business rate discount of up to £55,000 per year over five years. Other benefits include the Metro line to be extended to Brierley Hill by 2023.

Alan Lunt, the council's strategic director for place, said: "The launch event has been really positive, there have been some interesting conversations held and it is great to see business leaders getting together."

"We have so much to offer in Dudley for businesses. This will highlight that and give us a bit more pulling power. The success of this scheme will be determined by the economy and we will see over time but certainly all of the signals are there that we can do this."

"It will have to be bigger than party politics and whoever is in charge over the coming years will have to make sure this good work is carried on."

The scheme was backed by Ninder Johal, a board member of the Black Country Local Enterprise Board, who said: "This isn't just about local business, we want national and international companies to come to Dudley."



A the launch of the DY5 Dudley's Business and Innovation Enterprise Zone are Tom Westley Black Country Local Enterprise Lead for the Enterprise Zone; Alan Lunt Strategic Director for Place, Dudley Council; Mayor of Dudley, Councillor David Tyler; Councillor Patrick Harley leader of Dudley Council; and Councillor Ian Kettle, cabinet member for regeneration

Delighted MP praises college turnaround

AN MP says he is 'absolutely delighted' after a college in his constituency was awarded an 'outstanding' rating by the Government's education watchdog, Ofsted.

Dudley College received the rating for the first time, coming 10 years after it had been rated as 'inadequate'. Dudley North MP Ian Austin congratulated college Principal Lowell Williams. The

Labour MP said: "Everyone in Dudley should be saying a massive thankyou to Lowell Williams and his team for the way they have turned the college round, transformed the town centre, supported local businesses and helped strengthen the area's economy."

"I've always said we need to make education our number one priority to help local businesses

grow, give youngsters a first class start and give adults the opportunity to get new jobs too."

Mr Williams said: "I am so proud of the college staff and students. I think it is really important to get external recognition for the work that has gone on. It is brilliant for Dudley and the Black Country."

● Class of its own - page 9

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mayor in pledge to visit 100 firms

THE Mayor of Dudley has pledged to visit 100 local businesses during his year of office. Councillor Dave Tyler said he has made the pledge to celebrate the achievements of businesses and promote the support available from the council.

Councillor Tyler said: "We have so many vibrant, ambitious businesses in the borough and I am keen to show my support for their energies and innovation. Any business which would like to be included in my 100 business pledge, can get in touch through my website." See mayoroofdudley.org.uk

Summer festival in aid of hospice

A HOSPICE is holding a summer fundraising festival in the grounds of Himley Hall on Saturday.

Mary Stevens Hospice Summer Fest will take place from 10am to 5pm.

The event will offer live music, food and classic cars on show.

A family tickets for two adults and two children, costs £20. Tickets for people aged over 16 cost £8, under-16s £4, and under-twos go free.

All funds raised will go to Mary Stevens Hospice, which supports patients across the Black Country as well as their families.

Real ale and cider beside the canal

A REAL ale and cider festival is taking place this week at the Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust.

The festival opened yesterday (Wednesday) and continues to Saturday at The Portal, the trust's base off the Birmingham New Road near to the Black Country Living Museum.

More than 40 real ales and ciders will be available. It's free entry for CAMRA members and £2.50 for non-members. Visit dudleycanaltrust.org.uk or call 0121 557 6265.

Coffee, cake and mental wellbeing

A FREE coffee and cake mental health and wellbeing drop-in event is being held in Dudley.

Summit House Support and the Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust are inviting people to come and meet mental health community development workers at the event.

It is being held at Summit House, in North Street, on Wednesday, July 5, from 10am to 12 noon.

Mill open for fun day

UPPER Gornal's landmark Ruiton Windmill will be open to the public for a community event next weekend.

The annual Upper Gornal Fun Day is being held at the Vale Street Recreation Ground on Saturday, July 8, from noon to 4pm. The event will feature High Arcal School Band.

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Leap at chance to help salmon

PEOPLE are being invited to get involved in a new project to encourage salmon to return to a Black Country river. The Salmon in the Stour project involves the Environment Agency, Severn Rivers Trust, Birmingham and Black Country Wildlife Trust and Worcestershire Wildlife Trust.

A free workshop takes place tonight, Thursday, at Himley Hall from 2pm to gather information about the River Stour. It is hoped the research will help to establish who uses the river, for what purpose and in what ways use can be improved.

M6 Toll boost after takeover

THE new owners of the M6 Toll have received a £500 million vote of confidence from a string of investors including the UK's pensions lifeboat.

The Pension Protection Fund is part of a pool of investors backing a £500m investment by the huge Allianz Global Investors (AllianzGI) group in the UK's only pay-as-you-go motorway. It comes just days after it was revealed the motorway had been bought by Australian investment group IFM.

The M6 Toll has lost money since it first opened in 2003, weighed down by the £900m cost of construction.

Safety advice on picnic food

CRUCIAL safety advice has been issued as a guide to picnickers in the West Midlands. The Safe Summer Food guide addresses relevant concerns and gives top tips on food safety.

More than 1.8 million people in the West Midlands plan to get out into the great outdoors for a picnic this summer according to the Food Standards Agency, but in a survey, a quarter of people are concerned about picnic food hygiene. Go to www.food.gov.uk/picnics for more information.

Urgent plea to get more black donors

HEALTH officials have launched an urgent plea for more black people to volunteer to give blood. NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) said 40,000 more black donors are needed to meet growing demand for a subtype of blood more common in black people.

Between 2014 and 2016 there was a 75 per cent increase in the amount of Ro blood issued to hospitals in England. A high proportion of this blood is used to treat sickle cell disease. The online campaign is called #ImThere.

Pub holds festival

A FOUR-DAY cider and cheese festival is being held in a Wolverhampton city centre pub.

The event at the Lych Gate Tavern in Queen Square is running from July 6 to 9. The Black Country Ales pub has added sausages and classic wines as well this year.

Takeaway was infested with rats

A MOTHER-OF-THREE who ran a fast food restaurant infested with rats has been ordered to pay £6,000 in fines and costs.

Lixiang Ma knew rodents had got into the store room of Panda Paradise in New Street, Dudley, but did nothing about it, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

The 40-year-old later admitted having seen rat teeth marks on vegeta-

bles before an environmental health officer visited the premises. The routine call followed a cockroach being found in food served from its 'sister' restaurant in Tipton, for which she also held the lease.

The inspector ordered the immediate closure of the Dudley takeaway after finding two dead rats under a freezer and a large number of rat droppings in December 2015.

Mr Philip Brunt, prosecuting on behalf of Dudley Council, said: "There was evidence of active, widespread rat infestation. The risk to health from rats is substantial and can prove fatal."

There was an rat bait tray, confirming Ma knew of the rodents.

Mr Brunt concluded: "This was a flagrant disregard of the law. She plainly knew there was a rat infes-

tation but had not done anything to correct that."

Panda Paradise was allowed to reopen a week later, the court heard.

Mr Stephen Hamblett, defending, conceded: "She knew there were rats and ran the risk." Ma, of Priory Road, Dudley, of previous good character, admitted breaking four food safety and hygiene regulations and was fined £4,000 with £2,000 costs.

'I am broken and I cry for him every day'

Report by David Cosgrove

"LOSING him has broken me."

The widow of a Brierley Hill murder victim has spoken of her ongoing heartbreak, as she urges people to help track down the prime suspect in his killing.

Father-of-two Mansoor Mahmood was stabbed in October on Brierley Hill High Street. His widow, Aisha Akhtar, has spoken about the tragedy for the first time.

Eight months on, no-one has been charged with the crime – despite detectives having identified teenager Niron Parker-Lee as the prime suspect. Thanks to money raised by the family, the reward on offer for Parker-Lee's whereabouts is now £5,000.

Aisha, who met Mr Mahmood at Sandwell College, said: "Someone, somewhere, knows where he is. He is still out there living his life but we will never see Mansoor again and that's something this family can't come to terms with."

Devastated

"He is a dangerous man and has taken a person's life. Just give him up."

Aisha said the family had been devastated. The 24-year-old factory worker was also is wife's carer, after she sustained a spinal injury. He was a doting father to Isa, three, and Awaiz, who turns two next month.

Explaining their father's absence to the youngsters has proved harrowing, said Aisha. "Me and the children were everything to him. But they're too young to understand what has happened. It's been so hard as they want to see their dad and be able to hug him."

"Losing Mansoor has broken me, there's not a day where I don't cry for him."

Mr Mahmood's father Khalid Mahmood Choudhury, said the Eid celebration on Sunday had been a hugely difficult time. He said: "It was the first Eid since Mansoor passed away and we couldn't celebrate without him. I want justice for my son."

Detective Inspector Harry Harrison urged anyone with information on Parker-Lee to call 101, or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.



Stabbing victim Mansoor Mahmood with his two young children, who miss him desperately



Mr Mahmood's father Khalid Mahmood Choudhury,



Suspect Niron Parker-Lee is described as dangerous

Children's home bid is rejected by planners

CONTROVERSIAL plans to turn a detached home into a children's care centre have been rejected by council planners.

The proposals for the four-bedroom house in Dudley Road, Sedgley, sparked 37 objections from residents.

The plans were earmarked for approval but were rejected at a meeting by planning chiefs.

Neighbours highlighted potential issues including an increase of on-street parking, more noise and disturbance and existing anti-social behaviour in the area.

The application by Aston Children Care was for a change of use from residential to children's care home.

Council officers initially recommended it for approval, saying: "Whilst it is accepted this application is for a children's care home within a residential area, it is considered the size and scale of the building, the lack of any significant alterations and the nature of the care whereby a small number of children and young people live to offer a stable environment is akin to a residential use."

"Whilst the existing access to the site is narrow, there would be space within the site to provide adequate parking, access and manoeuvring space and this element could be conditioned. Fears of anti-social behaviour have been raised, however West Midlands Police have not objected."

Committee vice-chairman Paul Bradley said: "There was quite a spirited debate as it was a very emotive subject."

Business rate cap to help firms

A COUNCIL has launched a scheme to help pubs and small companies save money on their business rates.

The Dudley Council scheme is estimated to benefit more than 200 pubs, 45 small businesses and 230 other businesses if approved by council bosses next week.

Government has given the council £604,000 to help the 230 other businesses and will also foot the bill for pubs and small businesses. Under the plans – yet to be finalised – the yearly business rates increase for small businesses will be capped at £600.

Finance boss Councillor Steve Clark said: "This will be a huge boost to small businesses and pubs across the borough. We have made it very clear that we'll do all we can to support these types of businesses."

Road closures during work in city centre

MOTORISTS in Wolverhampton city centre face disruption as a series of road closures are being brought in during Mander Centre building works, which could run for up to 18 months, in operation from 6am to 6pm. Part of Bell Street will be closed.

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Celebrating 40 years in business

Extra dates for top comedians

COMEDIANS Jason Manford and Paul Chowdhry will be performing extra dates in Dudley.

The pair's shows at Dudley Town Hall are selling so well an extra date has been added for each in 2018.

Chowdhry, performing his show Live Innit in Dudley on October 12, will now have a second date on February 23 next year. Manford, at the town hall with his latest show Muddle Class on April 27 next year, will return for a second date on October 3. For more information, or to book, visit borough.halls.co.uk or call 01384 812812.

Ranger leads walk on Kinver Edge

WALKERS can discover the heathland and woodland wildlife of Kinver Edge during a guided ramble led by a ranger next week.

Those on the walk at the beauty spot near Stourbridge will also learn about the conservation currently being carried out on the site, which is run by the National Trust along with the site's Rock Houses.

The walk will be held between 11am and 3pm on Thursday, July 6. It costs £3.

To find out more call 01384 872553. The walk is not suitable for dogs.

Summer Serenade from choral group

A SINGING group will host a summer serenade at a church in the Black Country next weekend.

Halesowen Choral Society will sing at Hasbury Methodist Church on Albert Road on Saturday, July 8.

The concert starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £6.

Call 0121 550 7206 for more information about the concert or visit the society's website www.halesowenchoralsociety.org

Help for over-50s who struggle with mobiles

PEOPLE who struggle with their mobile phones can attend tuition sessions in the Black Country.

The free sessions have been organised by Bounce Back for over 50s who are baffled by their mobiles.

They have joined forces with young adults from the Prince's Trust to arrange one-to-one assistance at the Quarry Bank Community Centre on Monday, July 3, between 2.15pm and 4pm. Call 07491 312825 for further information.

School hosts fun day

A SEDGLEY school is holding a family fun day next Saturday.

There will be a barbecue as part of the fundraising event at Alder Cop-pice Primary School, off The North-way, on July 8.

The event runs from 1pm to 4pm with admission £1

Landmark former post office in auction



The former Post Office in Dudley

A LANDMARK former post office is to go under the hammer, raising hopes it could finally be turned into homes.

The Old Post Office, on the corner of Wolverhampton Street and Priory Street in Dudley town centre, will be put up for auction next month with a price tag of more than half a million pounds.

Plans to convert the historic building into flats have been in the pipeline for the last three years but, with a buyer yet to be found, the development has stalled.

The Grade II listed former Post Office building has been granted planning approval for conversion into 21 one-bedroom apartments and it is hoped a new owner will finally be found to bring the development to fruition.

The Georgian building's guide price is more than £525,000.

The four-storey building, constructed in 1909, was once of the most grand in Dudley town centre but has fallen into disrepair in recent years and last used as a nightclub called Nulla Nulla more than decade ago.

It is described by auctioneers SDL as a 'dilapidated Grade II listed building with a total floor area of 15,000 sq ft'.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said: "What we want to see is this beautiful building brought back to life."

The old post office will be among a lot of 157 properties from across the Midlands to go under the hammer with SDL Auctions at Aston Villa's Villa Park ground on Thursday, July 6 from 10.30am.

80,000 extra homes will have to be built

NEARLY 80,000 homes need to be built across the Black Country by 2036, according to a new report.

A consultation document for the Black Country Core Strategy has said sites have already been earmarked for around 60,000 homes, but bosses have said that there is a shortfall of 22,000.

As part of a new review there will be a 'call for sites' where people can put forward areas of land they feel may be suitable for development – and this could include green belt, according to Dudley Council leader Patrick Harley.

He has encouraged people to put forward any suggestions on where in the region the homes could be built.

He said: "This document will shape the Black Country for a generation and it's absolutely critical that people have their say on it."

"Making the most of brownfield land is a high priority for us and one of Dudley Council's main objectives in our work with the West Midlands Combined Authority."

"However, clearly at some point in the coming decades we are going to run out of these kind of sites as our population and our economy continues to grow."

Tough

"One issue that will come under discussion is building on green belt land. This is always something as a council we would see as very much a last resort."

"But something has to give, and there is no point burying our heads in the sand. We are clearly going to have to make some tough decisions on where these 22,000 new homes should go."

"That's why we are launching a consultation, along with the other three Black Country authorities, next month to enable people to have their say."

"It's important people tell us what they think and we would urge people to get in touch," Councillor Harley added.

People in Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton have been urged to say where they think the homes should, or could, go.

A public consultation starts on Monday, July 3, and will run until September 10.

The Black Country Core Strategy outlines how many homes need to be built and how to plan for the number of extra jobs needed in a growing population. It also looks at where new homes and businesses should be located.

Lottery winners dig in at memorial



Stuart and Denise Powell, Brenda Portch and Tom and Rita Naylor at the National Memorial Arboretum

FIVE Lottery winners helped build a pathway for visitors to the National Memorial Arboretum.

Wolverhampton couple Tom and Rita Naylor, who won £15 million, Stuart and Denise Powell, from Featherstone, who bagged £1m, and Stourbridge woman Brenda Portch, who won £1.4m, joined in the work.

They worked alongside other Lottery winners and Royal Marine Commando L Cpl Matthew

Croucher, from Solihull, who was awarded the George Cross for risking his life to save comrades in Afghanistan in 2008.

The pathway, called The National Lottery Way, is a 40-metre walkway taking visitors to memorials and tributes. It links the main avenue to the rear of the site at Alrewas, near Lichfield, where many new memorials are located.

The new route is designed to encourage more visitors to explore.

The winners spent two days excavating the route, pouring gravel, planting trees and shrubs and placing signage.

Ms Portch, who had her big lottery win in 2006, said: "The finished pathway looks wonderful and will allow people easy access to some of the latest memorials."

"Like all the other winners, I was delighted to take part in this incredible project."

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Bangin' as grime now leading the way

WITH all the talk about austerity and economic gloom, you might be interested to hear that there is one sector of the UK economy which appears to be doing very nicely, thank you very much. A nice little earner, with the potential to crack export markets right around the world.

According to the Official Charts Company, grime artists have seen their sales double over the past year, with the likes of Stormzy and Skepta leading the way. So it wasn't just me who was buying this stuff, then?

NOW you might think that that grime artists are painters with poor personal hygiene, but apparently not. According to worldwide web, grime is a type of music typified by rapid, syncopated breakbeats, generally 130 or 140 beats per minute, and which originated in East London. Which sounds a bit like Chas and Dave with drums. Bangin' man.

□□□

A MOTORIST claims to have had a chat with some aliens after their spaceship tailed her car in a remote, rural part of the United States.

She says the flaming spacecraft followed her car before stopping in front of her and asked her for directions to the e-cigarette stall on Willenhall Market. Actually I might have embellished the last bit, but you get the general drift. The lady claims to have told them: "I know that you can hear me because you all are a lot more intelligent and advanced than we are."

Which is probably true. But then again, the same could be said of people from the Black Country. But anyway, all this happened 40 years ago, and for some reason she has only just got round to telling the authorities.

Maybe it is because attitudes have changed, and she wasn't sure what kind of response she would have got had she gone to the police at the time. Although the words: "Would you mind blowing into this bag, madam", springs to mind.

□□□

MAYBE in the scheme of things, Tim Farron quitting as leader of the Liberal Democrats will probably not be causing you too many sleepless nights. No doubt, there are many people around who never knew who he was in the first place.

Nevertheless, we should all be very concerned when a party leader feels obliged to quit his post because his Christian faith is considered out of step with today's climate of political correctness.

It's the same with some of the comments about Democratic Unionists in Northern Ireland, who have been branded the "Dinosaur Party" because of their adherence to Christian values.

Isn't it incredible how the people who make the most noise about tolerance and diversity can never extend their liberal credentials towards Christianity?

As Sir Billy celebrates, Davis waits and Tim goes



Does David Davis measure up? Well, there are striking similarities to a particular columnist...



Arise Sir Billy – knighthood for the ex-pat comic, while the last surviving Dambuster gets an MBE



Farewell Farron – the unjust victim of bigots who claim to cherish diversity?

Big Yin's win puts a smile on some faces

REMEMBER that nice young man who sold you the double glazing and told you the super-efficient door would keep the coldest weather at bay? Do you recall him mentioning that in a heatwave the same door would warp, buckle and jam? No, me neither.

AFTER Michael Mosley's healthy-eating programme Trust Me – I'm a Doctor (BBC2) and a flurry of follow-up features in the glossy mags, a reader complains: "You can't get a white cabbage for love nor money." In all my years in journalism this is the first time I've witnessed a sauerkraut frenzy.

RESPECT to the Muslim men who fought back when a van crashed into a crowd near Finsbury Park Mosque. They had no idea whether their attacker was armed or whether the vehicle was a bomb. They just grabbed him, thumped him, detained him until the cops arrived and heeded their imam's pleas not to injure him. As I pointed out some days ago, terrorists are not superhuman. Facing a cohesive and determined group, they can be defeated. The official police advice to run, hide and report is sometimes no substitute for grab, wallop and pin down. Well done, all.

DAVID Davis, widely tipped this week as a possible successor to Theresa May, appears to have stolen my CV. Davis is a slightly overweight, sixtiesomething, Yorkshire-born, grammar-school educated husband, Eurosceptic and former Territorial Army officer. What's not to like?

SOME voices stay with you all your life. My generation will never forget Oliver Postgate narrating the saga of Noggin the Nog, or Shirley Abicair singing about the Little Boy Fishing. For a later generation, the voice of the Play School and Play Away presenter Brian Cant will endure.

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



Cant's death was announced this week. He was 83 and I bet, even now, you can hear his soft, beautifully modulated voice as he introduced Trumpton's firemen: "Pugh, Pugh, Barney McGrew, Cuthbert, Dibble, Grub."

SHIRLEY Abicair? Still alive and well and living in Melbourne, aged 86.

WHEN he urged the homeless of Grenfell Tower to occupy empty properties in Kensington, Jeremy Corbyn must have known he was encouraging them to break the law. If the bewildered, shellshocked survivors of the inferno actually followed his advice they could end up in the sort of accommodation that has bars on the windows.

AS the first proper survey reveals the impact of the youth vote on the General Election, the message for any future Conservative government is plain: 1) Under no circumstances hold an election during university term time. 2) If 1) is impossible then immediately raise the voting age to 60.

AND off to the dentist to re-arrange an appointment. In Reception, a huge muscular bloke with a big beard was being quietly assured by the receptionist that all their dentists are very understanding about nervous patients. "They don't come any more nervous than me," I offered cheerfully, hoping to reassure him. But he would not even make eye-contact. It is a reminder that for some people, dread of the dentist is not merely a fear but a full-blown phobia.

Given the link between tooth decay and heart disease, it can be a lethal phobia. I cannot remember a time when painless dentistry and drill-free fillings were not promised to be just around the corner. Still waiting. . . .

SO 95-year old George "Johnny" Johnson, the last surviving Dambuster, gets a measly MBE in the Honours list while 'Big Yin' Billy Connolly, a comedian who doesn't even live in this country, gets a knighthood. Makes you proud to be British, doesn't it?

AND why did poor old Olivia de Havilland have to wait until she was 100 – seven decades after her greatest films – to become a dame? The only people who should be forced to wait that long for honours are sporting "heroes" with dodgy urine samples.

TIM Farron stands down as Lib-Dem leader because his Christian views have become easy meat for his political enemies. The people I despise most in politics are those who claim to cherish diversity in all things when the truth is that they cannot tolerate diversity of opinion. If you don't share their mind-set you're worthless. They are the worst sort of bigots.

GOT home to find my chronically unreliable BT broadband not working. The bloke on the BT helpline wanted to know which malfunction lights were flashing. Tricky. Like millions of males, I am colour-blind. The lights on a BT hub are red, green and orange. But the red is a sort of orangey red, the orange is reddish orange and the green is somewhere between red and orange and strikes me as a bit yellowish. The lad at BT gave me the usual guff about putting the customer first but rather spoiled it by adding that if the fault's on my side of the hub it'll cost me £100.

TALKING POINT



Seeing red as gingers join range of emojis

ONCE upon a time there was just Rita Fairclough. Jenny Matthews came, went and returned, while Les Battersby also rocked up on the cobblestones.

He brought with him Cilla Brown and soon followed Chesney and Fizz.

Now we have Gary Windass and Craig Tinker, which does seem a high concentration in a street with around 13 houses.

Maybe should rename the soap opera Gingersation Street in tribute to the number of redheads currently residing in Weatherfield.

But, don't think this is a dig at the carrot-topped population. Far from it. It's actually a celebration of them, particularly as smart phone makers have finally come into the 21st century and recognised their existence.

Some of the biggest names in music over the decades are a certain shade of red, Cilla Black, Geri Halliwell, Ed Sheeran. Sporting superstar Steve Davis and even the fifth in line to the throne join them in a list of ginger greats. And let's not forget Emma Stone is an Oscar-winning actress.

They may make up less than two per cent of the world's population, but, like all minorities, it's still important they are represented in society. To that end, smart phone makers have finally decided to introduce ginger emojis.

Actually in Wales, Ireland and Scotland, a tenth of people sport red hair, and it was in the latter where an online petition was spearheaded, gathering 20,000 signatures.

The campaign document read: "Redheads. In all their glorious gingeriness, they've been missed out. Again. If you say you're going to diversify why not add a few red-haired emoji in the mix."

It acknowledged that while natural redheads may be rare, with such a small percentage of the world's inhabitants, that was still 138 million iPhones waiting to happen. The persistent campaigning on social media has now reaped its rewards. For, while emojis have evolved in recent years, there was still no redhead option, until now. Jeremy Burge, founder of emoji website Emojipedia – yes there is such a thing – has come to realise there is a gap in the market. He said: "The lack of a red-head emoji has been the most frequent complaint from users."

And, while they may be out painting the town red at the news, the bald truth is just as good for the follically-challenged too.

Mr Burge admitted that bald, curly and the white-haired could join them, too and these could all be rolled out by 2018.

In a day and age of multi-culturalism and diversity, I think it's a great idea that technology should be embraced and that minorities are being considered – not just as an afterthought. A grandmother from Coventry has even designed emojis that reflect old age, with false teeth and bad backs. Gets a thumbs up smiley from me!

MARK SHIPP

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Simple rule on overtaking being ignored

AFTER much deliberation, we decided to get a camera for the front of our car. Its advantages were highlighted on a recent journey down the M6 from the Lake District. As I was in the passenger seat, I was able to watch the stupid driving of others from an objective point of view, plus we could have called up recordings should an accident have occurred.

Like the female driver who drove for miles in the centre lane not overtaking. Like the white van driver who drove, with a large gap in front of him, for miles in the fast lane whilst traf-

fic built up behind him. Like the numerous HGVs who drove in the centre lanes at the same speed as the vehicle that they were trying to pass up slopes. Like the idiots who pulled out of access slip roads straight into traffic without waiting for a gap.

Most of the above cause traffic tailbacks and frustration, which can cause accidents.

After all, the nearside lane is THE driving lane, and the centre and outside lanes are for overtaking only.

The lorry situation is one that can be solved by Government taking ac-

tion. On many inclines on the continent, lorry overtaking by other lorries is banned at certain times (this regulation is also in place on stretches of some UK motorways). Why cannot this be introduced on the M6?

Pulling out of slip roads can be prevented by having barriers on the motorway side of the slips until it is safer to pull out (as is done on the continent).

Frustration while driving is a cause of accidents. So?

PETER COLE
Kingswinford

Wrong to blame the immigrants

DESPITE what some may say, about 80 per cent of the population are white British.

There have been huge communities of Irish people in London, Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester and Glasgow for centuries. They built our canals and railways.

There have been Asians, Africans and West Indians in the British army for centuries. They have all brought with them their fantastic cuisine.

They aren't the ones who claim to save the NHS whilst plundering millions from it for 'efficiency savings'.

Immigrants aren't allowing the rich to dodge taxes whilst cutting benefits for the poorest.

They aren't slashing funds for local authorities, causing closures of libraries, museums, art galleries, leisure centres and bus routes and care homes.

MICHAEL CLIFF
Wall Heath

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Code of Practice: Our policy is to correct errors as soon as we can. The Chronicles adhere to the Editors' Code of Practice, which can be seen at

Younger voters have shown immaturity

IF ever proof were needed of the folly of reducing the voting age from 21 to 18, it surely came in the form of the so-called 'youth vote' in this month's General Election.

Thousands of students displayed their immaturity, naivety and gullibility by voting for Corbyn's cynically, cleverly dangled carrot of the abolition of tuition fees. Safe in the knowledge that he didn't have a snowball in hell's chance of winning, Corbyn gleefully and mischievously made this promise along with other uncosted and unfulfillable measures such as four more bank holidays, free school meals, increase of the minimum wage, countless billions poured into the NHS, education and social care, etc, all of them appealing proposals we would all like to see implemented in an ideal world where money grows on trees.

MR B WILLIAMS
Wordsley

Concerns of the young are justified

LARGE numbers of young people voted in the General Election. This was an expression of passion and concern. This was a message to politicians that young people matter. That the future is being jeopardised in favour of short term policies.

Concerns are justifiable. House price have rocketed far above the means of many. Saving for a mortgage will take many years or is impossible. For those in rented accommodation, in an unregulated market, it is not unusual for 50 per cent of one's income going towards rent.

Flexible working and low pay is no foundation for economic and social security. With the dawning of a technological revolution, fewer jobs will become available. Creeping privatisation of the NHS will erode the service. It is foolish and thoughtless to ignore young people. Their future is just as important as our present.

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How college made it into a class of its own

"THE finances were very poor, the buildings were very poor. The Ofsted rating was the worst it could be. On the face of it, it looked desperate and impossible."

Ten years ago Dudley College was on its knees.

Failing in the eyes of the education regulator, it was rated inadequate and lacking direction, having gained a reputation for poor standards. A decade on, the picture could not be more different.

Handsome state-of-the-art science and technology campuses, enviable performance and, now, recognition from Ofsted has capped an incredible turnaround in fortunes.

Dudley College is now rated as 'outstanding' for the first time, one of only a handful of further education sites to achieve that rating.

Transformation

The man who has overseen the remarkable transformation in standards is Lowell Williams. The principal arrived in 2008 with the unenviable task of driving up standards.

Mr Williams said: "I am so proud of the college staff and students. I think it is really important to get external recognition for the work that has gone on. It is brilliant for Dudley and the Black Country."

The boss said the college was drifting when he arrived, suffering with a lack belief or willingness for things to change. His frank assessment was that the college had become a 'mess'.

"The college hadn't stayed true to its focus. It was poorly led and managed," he said. "People didn't work collectively. It was a series of little fiefdoms, departments were doing things they wanted to do."

"I don't think there was a belief things could be different. It had be-



Principal Lowell Williams with Chancellor Philip Hammond at Dudley College

come a bit of a mess. It was a real shame for the college because it is a major part of the community. The college was failing in 2007."

Mr Williams and college chiefs embarked on an ambitious programme of investment. Millions has since been spent modernising the college, with new campuses springing up in the town centre.

Mr Williams said: "We took quite a risk. As the college was inadequate in 2007 we couldn't get access to public money. We got a corporation together

and got business people on board to bring investment and grow student numbers. Now it looks like a fantastic business decision but at the time it was a big decision. We were borrowing at a time of crisis and found a bank to lend to us. We borrowed and took out loans. Now we are paying them back."

Dudley College now faces a new challenge – to stay the best.

Mr Williams added: "Having got to outstanding level we need to make sure we keep it that way. We won't be getting carried away."

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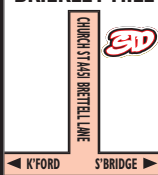
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Airwaves on the waterways for host

A BBC radio presenter held his breakfast show live from a canal boat in the Black Country.

BBC WM breakfast presenter Alex Lester, who joined the station in March, broadcast live from Stour-bridge on June 19.

He travelled on a narrow boat between Bonded Warehouse to Red House Glass Cone during his 6am to 9am show.

Alex lived on a narrow boat for 10 years in Birmingham and has a real passion for canals.

He said: "I'm thrilled to be doing what I love – talking on radio – whilst touring my motherland in the West Midlands on my favourite

kind of transport. There's nothing quite as calming as a narrow boat ride and it's the best way to see the beautiful parts of where we live.

"I can't wait to get out there and meet our lovely listeners as we go along."

Alex kicked off a tour being held by BBC WM's favourite presenters, who are travelling around the West Midlands over the next month broadcasting from narrow boats, schools, parks and sports clubs.

They will also be appearing in Wolverhampton, Birmingham and Tamworth. The BBC WM tour will be run until July 14.

Tickets sell fast for the Noble art of comedy

TICKETS are selling fast for the chance to catch top comic Ross Noble on stage for one of the highlights of this year's Black Country Festival.

The stand-up comedian headline a huge night of comedy as the showpiece event during the month-long celebration for Black Country Day.

The Georgie comic, who has appeared on the likes of Live At The Apollo, Have I Got News For You and QI, will be supported by local acts at the show. It will take place at Brierley Hill Civic Hall on Black Country Day, Friday, July 14.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Dudley will attend and there will be a collection after the show for the mayor's three chosen charities – Dudley Mind, YMCA Black Country Group and Dudley Alzheimer's Society.

Noble, 40, has nearly one million followers on Twitter.

He will be supported on the night by Jonny Cole, from Wednesbury; Darren Harriott, from Oldbury; and Mike Crump, from Dudley. Holding things together as MC on the night will be Wayne Beese, also from Dudley.

Musical comedian Cole has built a huge following in the Black Country with songs including Fat Face



Georgie comedian Ross Noble is a familiar face on TV

and I Found Love In The Black Country going down a storm with audiences.

Harriott has appeared on Russell Howard's Stand Up Central on TV and is tipped for big things. Crump is also an actor and is another touted as a future star.

Tickets, priced at £22 each, are available at www.bhillcivic.co.uk website.

Search for Natalie has gone cold again

THE search for missing Natalie Putt has gone cold again – two weeks after police examined human remains.

Natalie was last seen heading to local shops from her home in Upper Gornal 14 years ago, leaving behind her 11-year-old son.

Despite police and Crimewatch appeals, Natalie, aged 17 when she went missing, has never been found. Earlier this month police received 'credible' new information which led them to Ruiton Cemetery, near Natalie's home. It came after Natalie's picture was shown on TV during the Missing People Choir's performance on Britain's Got Talent. But an examination of human remains from four graves had brought no answers.

There was another twist when officers received a call from a phone box providing a name of a person who was described as being 'responsible' for Natalie's apparent death. Officers have since appealed for that person to call them again.

This week West Midlands Police said they had no update on the search for Natalie.

Her father David Putt said: "It is good in one way because they have not found a body, but bad in another because we are desperate for closure."



BBC WM presenter Alex Lester meets skipper Peter Freakley during his trip along the canal from Stourbridge

Carnival will be bigger and better

FOOD, feasts and festivities – this year's Halesowen Carnival promises to be bigger and better than ever. Villa legend Tony Daley and TV weatherman and former EastEnders actor Des Coleman will be opening the third Halesowen Carnival and Music Festival at the weekend.

Part of the Black Country Festival, the event on Saturday includes a food and drink festival and a dog show. Entry to the event at Highfield Park is free and will also include a large fair, craft stalls, wrestling and more. Festivities run from 12pm to 8pm over two fields.

The 'Royal Family' appointed for the carnival this year were recognised for bravery or community work. Labique Ahmad was crowned king with Megan Griffin appointed queen. Labique is a student at King Edward College in Stourbridge. He was nominated because of community work. Megan raises money for Cancer Research UK and Macmillan in memory of her brother. Carnival Prince Henry Torrington is a pupil at Lutley Primary School and was nominated because of his bravery in the face of kidney failure. Princess Olivia Hanks has overcome a tragedy.

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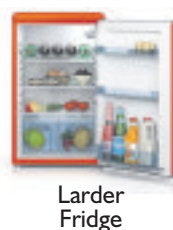
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£1m Fabergé brooch stuns roadshow expert

A PIECE of jewellery worth around £1 million was discovered when the Antiques Roadshow filmed at the Black Country Living Museum, in Dudley.

The programme made in the Black Country last Wednesday episode will prove one for the history books – as a Fabergé brooch became one of the most expensive items ever valued on the show, which is approaching its 40th anniversary.

The item was looked at by experts at the museum during a takeover of the attraction by the Roadshow which saw around 5,000 people attend.

Presenter Fiona Bruce said: “I’m excited that we’ve had such a good find.”

Builder Dan Bansal, aged 50, from Hagley, was watching when the quality of the brooch stunned

expert Geoffrey Munn. Mr Bansal said: “The expert said it’s probably the second time he’s ever done that type of valuation. I think he was reluctant to say £1 million and nervous to say it was worth that much.”

With its valuation, the brooch becomes one of the most expensive items in the show’s history. Previous items given seven-figure valuations include a model of Antony Gormley’s Angel of the North and the FA Cup presented between 1911 and 1992.

A BBC spokesman said the Fabergé piece was ‘a really important find’, but the history and exact value of the item has not yet been revealed by show bosses.

Executive producer Simon Shaw said: “We’ve had one of the most significant jewellery finds in 40 years of Antiques Roadshow history but we don’t want to spoil the surprise.”



Geoffrey Munn with the brooch, but the BBC will not allow a close up until the programme airs

Mayor praises £10m boost for museum

THE West Midlands Mayor has hailed a £10 million funding boost for the Black Country Living Museum which will see the attraction expand by a third.

Museum bosses want to recreate the post-war region by rescuing or resurrecting several famous buildings from the region, including Dudley’s Woodside Library.

It was announced earlier this month that Heritage Lottery has awarded the museum £9.8m towards the project to create new 1930s to 60s town, which currently focuses on the Victorian into Edwardian era.

New Mayor Andy Street said: “I have been hugely impressed by the Black Country Living Museum’s ambitious proposals to build on what is already regarded as one of the UK’s top attractions of its type.

“This funding will be a huge boost for these future plans as they work towards an annual target of half-a-million visitors, which will be supported by the arrival of the Midland Metro tram line in the coming years.

“The museum also plays a huge part in preserving and showcasing the unique cultural heritage of the Black Country and the new project will underpin that.”

Police are ‘buckling’ from cuts in funding

LOCAL policing is ‘pretty much non-existent’ when officers are deployed to terror incidents, says the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner.

David Jamieson has revealed that the force was ‘buckling under the strain’ of cuts that have seen its budget reduced by £140 million over seven years.

Meanwhile, The Chief Constable of West Midlands Police Dave Thompson has warned that his force would face ‘real challenges’ tackling a repeat of the 2011 riots following years of budget cuts.

That comes after Metropolitan Police Commissioner Cressida Dick said British counter-terror agencies had been ‘stretched’ by the recent spate of terror attacks.

Mr Jamieson said the fact that the service has lost 1,746 officers since 2010 meant that ‘when there is a major public order deployment, or in this case a reaction to an act of terror, local policing is pretty much non-existent’.

Challenge

He said the force was facing another budget cut of £6m this year and added: “We simply do not have enough people policing our streets.

“The police will always rise to challenge and do all they can to protect us, but we need a Government that will give them the resources they need to do so.

“Everyone can see that with the current situation it is not the time to cut police budgets. The threats we face are not reducing like our budget is.”

By Peter Madeley

Chief Constable Thompson called on the Government to boost investment, protect frontline policing including bobbies on the beat and cut bureaucracy in a blog for the National Police Chiefs’ Council.

He said: “The funding forces receive needs to be stabilised with real terms protection for policing as a whole. Last year we saw the prison service snap under pressure with riots in Birmingham Prison.

“We cannot afford this to happen to policing but the strain is showing from recent weeks and we’d have real challenges in dealing with something like the 2011 riots again.

“When things break recovery is never quick, and in policing it takes considerable time to recruit and train staff.”

Met boss Ms Dick told a meeting of the Police and Crime Committee that other criminal investigations had been paused or delayed out of ‘necessity’ in the wake of four terror attacks in the UK this year.

Elite race is part of Black Country Run

THE sixth annual Black Country Run takes place on Sunday but with a new twist.

For the first time the event includes a Halesowen Elite 5k timed race. This race is specifically for those runners who are able to complete a 5k course in under 30 minutes.

More than 1,000 people are expected to take part in the event which is in Halesowen town centre with the Elite 5K starting at 9am. The 10k race will then begin at 9.45am and be followed by the family fun run starting at 11.30am.

Temporary road closures will be in place.

Organised by Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary Club, runners from a range of abilities raise funds for their own chosen charities or the club’s good causes. Last year 1,200 people took part and raised many thousands of pounds for charity.

More details can be found at www.theblackcountryrun.com website.

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13 Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, June 29, 2017

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16 Brew brothers' funding success

AN UPPER Gornal family-run brewery is celebrating the success of a crowdfunding appeal to its fans.

The Fownes Brewing Company set out to raise £5,000 to invest in bottling equipment for the ales it creates at its brewery at the back of The Jolly Crispin pub in Clarence Street.

Brothers James and Tom Fownes, who started the award-winning brewing operation in 2012, succeeded in generating more than £6,500 via the Indiegogo website.

The funding will enable them to introduce a brand new range of bottled craft beers. They will be available in distinctive 330ml black glass bottles with labels featuring the Fownes own artwork.

Part of the investment will go into a bottling machine, capper and labelling machine and buying the bottles, made in the Netherlands, custom-designed boxes and labels.

Burglar raided home on way home from his father's funeral

A PROLIFIC burglar from the Black Country who took £1,000 raised for charity by a London marathon runner has been jailed for three and a half years.

Craig Longmore's haul from the house in Arundel Road, Stourbridge, also included 'irreplaceable' engagement and wedding rings.

Longmore, who had four previous convictions for burglary, struck while the occupants were out around 4.50pm on May 2, when he was returning home from attending his father's funeral.

At the funeral he had been shunned by fam-

ily members, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

The 40-year-old from Tipton and another man, who has not been traced, broke into the property by forcing a rear kitchen window and carried out an untidy search.

Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting, said that in addition to the money that had been collected for the Lupus charity and jewellery, a laptop computer and sunglasses were also taken.

Blood

Longmore cut himself while breaking in and left a spot of blood in the bathroom. This was his undoing because forensic checks matched it to his DNA profile and he was arrested on May 22.

Longmore had a long-standing addiction to heroin and crack cocaine that had caused much of his earlier offending, the court was told. But he had steered clear of drugs since his jailing in 2015 for a burglary in in Tipton, it was claimed.

He was released from that prison sentence in December last year but was still on licence when committing the latest offence, on the day of his father's funeral.

Mr Simon Hunka, defending, said: "He turned to drink to get through the wake, was offered a lift home by somebody from his past and the inevitable happened."

Longmore, of Mamby Street, pleaded guilty to burglary. Jailing him, Judge Nicholas Webb told him: "This was a particularly nasty offence."

Crooner gets seat honour

VETERAN American jazz singer Tony Bennett will be honoured with a seat in his name at Birmingham's Symphony Hall.

The accolade comes as the 90-year-old entertainer gives his tenth performance at the city centre venue on Monday.

This is the first time the Symphony Hall has ever recognised an artist in this way.

Since his first visit to the hall in 1996, Tony has performed to more than 17,000 fans. His greatest hits include The Best Is Yet to Come, The Shadow of Your Smile and multi-award winning favourite I Left My Heart in San Francisco.

Mr Bennett said: "I have loved performing for audiences over the years at Birmingham Symphony Hall as it is a beautiful theatre. I am honoured to have a seat in the hall named after me to mark my tenth performance here."

Reality TV star meets fans



Vicky Pattison with a fan at the Merry Hill shopping centre branch of WH Smith

REALITY TV star Vicky Pattison signed copies of her new book for fans at Merry Hill shopping centre.

Vicky shot to fame when she appeared in Georgie Shore in 2015 and the 29-year-old went on to be crowned queen of the jungle in the 2015 series of I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out of Here.

Vicky appeared at the WH Smith store at the shopping centre near Brierley Hill, to sign copies of her latest novel, My Sister's Wedding.

As well as appearing as a panellist on

Loose Women, she has carved out a successful literary career with her autobiography Nothing but the Truth becoming a bestseller and finding success with her first novel All that Glitters.

Vicky also has her own clothing range, jewellery collection and weekly column in a magazine.

She is one of the original Georgie Shore cast and appeared in nine series of the hit MTV show, and is now the star of her own MTV show, Judge Georgie.

Insurer expanding with new branch

A DUDLEY firm of insurance brokers is taking on more staff and launching a new northern branch as part of a national expansion plan.

Gravity Risk Services is launching a branch in Bradford, Yorkshire, to take its award-winning insurance services to a wider audience.

The company, based in Dudley's Priory Road, has been growing steadily for five years and over the past six months has taken on four new staff to bolster specific areas of the business.

The new Bradford branch will provide bespoke business-to-business insurance packages to firms in the north of the country, after Gravity Risk Services bosses attracted senior personnel from competitors.

The company has also taken on extra staff to oversee a new Orbit Claims arm of the business which will provide a specialist claims service for large losses.

Festival of glass ahead

THE International Festival of Glass will return to the Black Country in August.

Taking place from August 25 to August 28, Ruskin Glass Centre and Red House Glass Cone in Stourbridge will host a mix of lectures, workshops, exhibitions, master sessions, family activities as well as food and drink.

Other locations within the Glass Quarter will be involved as and when details become available nearer the time. Visit www.ifg.org.uk for more information.

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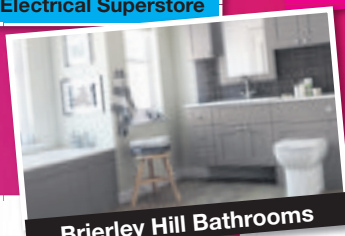
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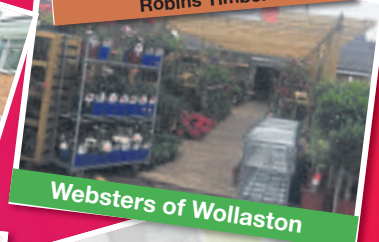
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PROUD TO BE LOCAL

Summerfest to be a record breaker

AN upcoming charity event is expecting to welcome more than 8,000 people through the gates of Himley Hall, smashing previous attendance records nearly eight times over.

"Summerfest", sponsored by Western Power Distribution, is an all-day summer festival being held on Saturday, July 1, by the Mary Stevens Hospice, which supports families and patients in Dudley borough who are battling the impact of life-limiting or terminal illnesses.

As well as live music throughout the day on the Signal 107 Main Stage, there will also be a classic and performance car show, sponsored by Bodykraft, and a street food festival.

There will also be a large soft play area, fairground rides, a dog zone, and even an eight-seat F1 simulator, which gives petrol heads the opportunity to race the Monza Grand Prix circuit, with a cash prize on offer to whoever records the fastest lap.

Advance prices are £20 for a family ticket – two over-16s and two under-16s – or £8 for an over-16s ticket and £4 for under-16s. It's free for the under-2s. Those prices will increase to £25, £10 and £5 on the day.

Laura Millard, Community Engagement Officer at Mary Stevens Hospice said: "We can't wait to put



Classic cars will be among the many attractions at Summerfest

on a truly memorable day for the community which supports us so passionately.

"We must admit, the scale of the interest we've received is far beyond anything we could ever have hoped for and we've been blown away by the response. We can assure you that if you do decide to join us on Saturday, it'll be one of the best days out you've had for a long, long time!"

Charlotte Schofield, Head of Fundraising and Lottery at Mary Stevens Hospice, said: "The way the community have taken to this event

is just remarkable. Seeing it go from an idea we'd like to try, to becoming the largest event we've ever done has been absolutely fantastic. It's going to be such a fantastic day."

To book tickets in advance, call (01384) 377 778 or visit www.marystevenshospice.co.uk/event/summerfest/

In order to provide specialist palliative care for free, the charity is required to raise £2.8 million every year within the local community, with just 18 per cent of funding provided by Government. Visit www.marystevenshospice.co.uk

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PROUD TO BE LOCAL

Gym mission is to boost family health

REVIVAL Fitness, which opened in Stourbridge town centre in April, aims to make a real difference, improving the health of local families.

The independent fitness centre in Lower High Street, fitted with state-of-the-art equipment, offers more than 200 workout stations.

Owner Stuart Cox, who heads a team of six and also employs three personal trainers, explained: "We opened with the aim to let local ordinary people improve their fitness, diet and overall wellbeing. We offer personal bespoke advice in an un intimidating setting. We aim to be much more than a gym, a place that is welcoming and inviting to those usually scared of joining a gym."

Stuart's friendly team offer personable support and advice to members with the key to improve fitness and wellbeing.

Membership costs £17.99 a month and an annual membership is available at £200. Offers are also available at different times of the year. The fitness centre is open to members from 13-years-old and plans to introduce family memberships in the near future.

Wordsley-born Stuart, aged 30, from Kingswinford, was inspired to create Revival Fitness through his own experiences. "After playing football I realised how unfit I was and developed a passion for getting



At work in the gym



The gym is well equipped

CONTACT US

Business: Revival Fitness

Address: 158, Lower High Street, Stourbridge

Tel: 07702 222516

Email: stuart@revivalfitness.co.uk

Website: www.revivalfitness.co.uk

myself fitter and healthier. Now I want to help others to do the same – which is why Revival Fitness is here now."

He has invested nearly £250,000 in setting up Revival Fitness in the former Savoy cinema building. The fitness centre on three floors currently

takes up 16,000 sq ft with room to grow. The wide range of equipment includes fixed resistance machines, plate-loaded machines, an Olympic lifting platform, free weights, punch bags and multi-gyms. There are also group fitness classes available.

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PROUD TO BE LOCAL

Emma's mountain climb for 'Nanna'

A little girl from Stourbridge will be climbing a mountain roughly 945 times her size to raise money for the Mary Stevens Hospice in memory of her late Nan.

Six-year-old Emma will be climbing to the summit of the Cadair Idris in Wales, which stands at a whopping 2,930ft tall, to pay tribute to her 'Nanna' Brenda Cadwallader who was a hospice volunteer for more than 15 years before she passed away in 2015.

Emma has been training for nearly 12 months to prepare for her climb, and is apparently fuelled on her challenges by 'Haribo and the promise of an ice cream'. The mountain has been a regular visiting spot for the family for many generations, and Emma's mum Lisa could think of no more fitting tribute to Brenda.

Lisa Cadwallader said: "The Cadair Idris is a beautiful mountain and is very close to my family's heart. I climbed it many times as a child with my parents and brother, and it felt a fitting tribute to Mom to climb it again as a family with Emma.

"Emma and her Nanna were inseparable. When diagnosed, Mom set herself the target of seeing Emma start school, and of reaching her 6th birthday. She did see her start school, on September 7, 2015, but a few



Emma from Stourbridge pictured with her much-loved 'Nanna'

weeks later, on September 22, was admitted to the hospice as a patient. She lost her fight during the early hours of September 25 – the day after Emma's 6th birthday. She achieved every goal.

"It would be wonderful to think that Emma can manage to raise enough money to keep a patient cared for in the hospice for 24 hours, as a way of our family saying 'Thank You' for all the love and care that the hospice provides."

Dan Malin, of Mary Stevens Hospice, said: "Emma seems to perfectly

balance being tough as nails and absolutely heart-warming, and we're just so proud of her. Her Nanna was part of the furniture at the hospice and her loss was very difficult for the team here. We've got absolutely no doubt that this incredible little girl will make mincemeat of her mountain!"

To sponsor Emma as she aims to raise £695, the cost of a 24-hour stay in the Hospice In-Patient Unit, visit <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Emmamac6> To find out more about the work of the hospice, visit www.marystevenshospice.co.uk

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PROUD TO BE LOCAL

Postie's 500 mile ride for hospice

A LOCAL postman will cycle more than 500 miles to raise money for the Stourbridge charity which looked after his friend in his final days.

Steve Gould, aka Steve the Postman, will set off on a five-day challenge in Northern Scotland, riding more than 100 miles a day to raise money for the Mary Stevens Hospice.

The postie regularly takes on physical challenges to raise money for charity, and following the support his friend Keith received in his final days at the Hagley Road hospice, he said that picking the hospice "wasn't a difficult choice to make."

Amazing

Hospice supporter Steve said: "I'd supported the hospice a few years ago anyway through work, so I'd already got a good idea of the fantastic work the team there do and the support they give to families in difficult times.

"However, when Keith passed away I saw for myself how amazing a job they do, and they made a difficult time that bit more comfortable and easier for those who loved Keith.

It's going to be one heck of a challenge, but it's for a fantastic cause and if the weather's good it should hopefully be an amazing few days."



Intrepid postman Steve Gould is taking on an epic ride for charity

Dan Malin, of Mary Stevens Hospice said: "Is there anything more wonderfully British than a heroic local postie?"

"Steve's a truly incredible man, and the training that he's done to get himself ready for this challenge is just astonishing.

"He's been cycling hundreds of miles at a time, and hanging bags of house bricks off the back of his bike just to get his body in the condition it has to be to even consider something of this magnitude."

Dan added: "We've no doubt he'll

do absolutely brilliant, and we know Keith will be with him every inch of the way just keeping an eye on him for us."

Steve will set off on Monday, July 3 and ride until Friday, July 7, travelling roughly 520 miles in just five days.

To support Steve's challenge, you can donate to his JustGiving page at: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/steve-gould-nc500>

Or to find out more about the work of the Mary Stevens Hospice, visit www.marystevenshospice.co.uk website.

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Mentoring group in sailing challenge

A group which provides mentoring and coaching to high-performing professionals has supported the Mary Stevens Hospice, to help them to care for more families in the West Midlands.

The Stourbridge-based charity were given a cheque for £3,000 by the V28 Vistage group, to support their upcoming £3 million redevelopment project, which will ensure free, specialist care is available to more families who are battling the impact of terminal or life-limiting illnesses.

In order to further contribute to the project, the V28 group will also run a charity sailing challenge in September 2017, which will see two novice teams race across the Solent, from Cowes to Hamble, with all proceeds being donated to the Hagley Road hospice.

Effective

Stevan Jackson, Chief Executive Officer, Mary Stevens Hospice Group, said: "The knowledge and skills I have gained as a result of membership of the V28 Group has helped me to be a more effective leader of the Mary Stevens Hospice Group."

Ian Harris, V28 Group Leader, said: "For a CEO, running a hospice has many of the same needs as running a business, so I'm delighted that my Vistage Business leader group



V28 Group Leader Ian Harris, Mary Stevens Hospice CEO Stevan Jackson, and Southco Managing Director Pascal Testell

and myself can support Stevan's leadership at Mary Stevens Hospice."

Vistage is a coaching group, which supports CEOs, executives and business owners by providing mentoring, coaching and leadership support across the UK.

If you would like to donate to their effort, visit: www.givepenny.co.uk/V28

To find out more about the hospice, its work and the £3m capital appeal visit www.marystevenshospice.co.uk

To find out more about the Vistage group, visit www.vistage.co.uk

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OUT OF THE BLUE: ANTONY ON STAGE

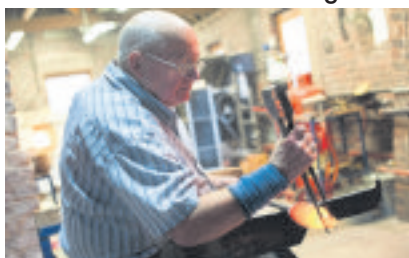
INSIDE

MUSIC + THEATRE + TV GUIDE + PUZZLES

International Festival of Glass

In August sites across the Stourbridge Glass Quarter, including Red House Glass Cone, White House Glass Cone and Ruskin Glass Centre will be celebrating the areas glass heritage past and present when the glass festival returns to over the August Bank Holiday weekend 25-28 August. Exhibitions, demonstrations

and activities will fill the 4 day event, with a packed programme. For further details visit www.rmft.org.uk/international-festival-of-glass



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All Rise! Antony in Grand stage thriller

He's best known as the boy band singer who enjoyed hits with Too Close, All Rise and Sorry Seems To Be The Hardest Word. But before Antony Costa was scoring number one hit singles with the all-conquering Blue he was in fact, a child actor.

One of his earliest roles was a pupil in Steven Moffat's sitcom Chalk and he then went on to appear in the BBC's Grange Hill.

Having surfed the waves of the Blue reunion in recent years, Antony is returning to his roots. He's treading the boards in theatre, starring in Ruth Rendell's A Judgement In Stone. From Monday until July 8, he'll line up alongside a starry cast at Wolverhampton's Grand, featuring Andrew Lancel, Sophie Ward, Mark Wynter, Deborah Grant, Shirley Anne Field and Ben Nealon.

"I'm thrilled," he says. "It's been really, really good. We've had some fantastic reviews and it's a great cast of people."

The Bill Kenwright-produced show builds on the phenomenal decade-long success of The Agatha Christie Company. It is a new production adapted from one of the most celebrated works of the writer often hailed as the successor to Agatha Christie.

The action centres around Eunice, who struggles to fit in. When she joins a wealthy family as their housekeeper the very reason for her awkwardness, long hidden and deeply buried, leads inexorably to a terrible tale of murder in cold blood – on Valentine's Day.

The brilliant plot unravels a lifetime of deceit, despair and cover-ups which, when revealed, brings a shocking revelation almost as grizzly as murder itself.

THRILLER

Antony loves it. "There's something not quite right with Eunice and no one can see why. But I think what Ruth Rendell did so well was to more or less go on the psychology side of things. Why do these people do it? Why do they murder and everything else? It's a great show, a very fast-moving thriller and people are with us from start to finish."

Though Antony started his career as a child actor, he admits he still has much to learn. And featuring alongside some of the best in the business – like Andrew Lancel – has been inspiring. He's learned much from old hands of the stage and hopes it will hold him in good stead.

"There are a lot of old school people in the show, but for me I'm always learning. If you stop learning, that's the time to quit. For now, I'm loving every minute of it. I hope the people of Wolverhampton do too."

"The thing is that I've always acted. I was a trained actor as a kid. My life went a different direction when I was 18. I loved pop videos and I was so interested in that aspect. When we were in Blue, it wasn't just about turning up, singing your song and going. I wanted to do more. So when this came up and Bill Kenwright called, I jumped at the chance. It gives me another string to my bow."

For a man who's spent most of his life in the spotlight, Antony is enjoying the chance to be out of it. He's very much part of the supporting cast, rather than a lead player, and feels the pressure is off. He

Antony stars alongside former Corrie star Andrew Lancel



can relax into his character and watch as experienced pros lead the line.

He also enjoys the fact that the audience are going to see a play – rather than see him sing. He knows it's about his character, rather than him.

"This gives me a new lease of life. I'm always learning. Nine out of 10 people at a pop concert are there to see me sing. That's why they come. It's about me, rather than the show. But this is the opposite. It's about the show, not me. And that takes the pressure off. My job is simple – I just need to give 110 per cent."

Some things don't change, of course, and Antony is back on the road with the show, just as he was in Blue. He's travelling the length of the country – though his visit to Wolverhampton might be punctuated by an important arrival.

"I love being on the road and I've done it since I was 18. But it will be a weird week in Wolverhampton because my baby is due. If I get the call, I've got to go. For the first couple of days, I'll be there. But then the baby is due on the July 6. So we'll just have to see what happens. But I'm looking forward to the Grand Theatre. I've never been before."

And once A Judgement In Stone is done – and he's finished changing the nappies – he's keen to come back. Antony is open to more stage

It's about the show, not me. And that takes the pressure off. My job's simple

work and hopes it'll lead to TV acting roles.

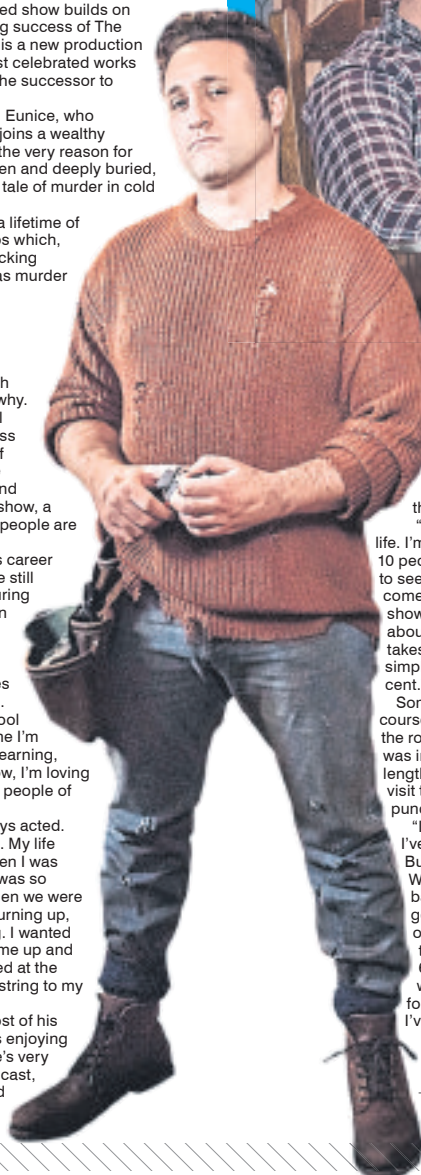
"I want to do more stage work and if TV arose I'd jump on the chance. It all depends on timing or whether the part's right. You never know what's in the audience watching you. But I love it mate, I absolutely love it. The cast getting applause at the end is amazing."

"When we used to do a Blue tour, people booked tickets to see us which we were thankful for. But it's different now. I could sing a couple of lines of a song to a Blue crowd and they'd cheer. But for me, I like to get into the depth of a character. I like to be someone else for two and a half hours."

Not that Antony's acting ambitions spell the end of Blue. They'll be back every now and then.

"Listen mate, you know, if there's gigs coming up with the boys and the climate's right, we'll do a few shows. If there's an album and it's right, we'll do it. But I love being on stage right now and I need this for me. I don't want to live with regret because I didn't do this. You got to be selfish and do something yourself once in a while."

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.



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Scene from Curious Incident...



Curious hit play returns to wow audiences again

Award-winning play *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* returns to the West Midland next week for a week-long run in Birmingham.

The second national tour of the Olivier and Tony Award-winning production will be staged at Birmingham Hippodrome from Tuesday to Saturday, July 4 to 8.

Earlier this month the play adapted from Mark Haddon's best seller by Simon Stephens ended its run in the West End after nearly five successful years.

The National Theatre production directed by Marianne Elliott picked up a record-breaking seven Oliver Awards and has been seen by more than a million people in London.

A delirious and dazzling blend of maths, technology,

drama and humour, it tells of teenager Christopher Boone, who has an extraordinary brain that means he is brilliant at maths but ill-equipped to deal with everyday life. His investigation into the killing of a neighbour's dog turns his life upside down.

Playing the role of Christopher in Birmingham will be Scott Reid, recently seen in BBC TV comedy *Still Game*.

National Theatre producer Kash Bennett said: "We were overwhelmed by the enthusiastic reception from audiences around the UK and Ireland when we toured *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* in 2014-15, playing to almost 400,000 people, and are delighted to take this beautiful and inventive show to new venues and make a return to others."

See www.birminghamhippodrome.com or call 0844 338 5000.

Focus on daring shows in festival



BE Festival, Birmingham's summer festival of international performing arts, returns to Birmingham Repertory Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday, July 4 to 8.

It is a celebration that showcases daring new theatre, dance and circus from Spain, Portugal, Italy, Switzerland, France, Germany, Greece and beyond.

Organisers say that in the wake of the Brexit referendum, organisations such as BE Festival has a greater responsibility to maintain bridges with the wider artistic community.

Highlights include *Asingleline*,

from Germany, an outdoor project that will literally stretch a single two-kilometre line of red tape from Ladywood over parks and roads into Birmingham Rep.

British Enough?, from Uzbekistan and the UK, is a new piece of immersive theatre that plays with the idea of the British Citizenship Test. *Anatomia Publica*, from Spain and France, is a story of strange relationships in the aftermath of war told through movement.

Highlights in the main evening theatre programme include *Portraits* and *Short Stories* by Dutch company Panama Pictures, who combine a daring use of ropes, trampolines, and acrobatics. *Odc Ensemble's* show *Revolt Athens* is a unique city guide that looks at

the living and breathing reality of Greece's capital.

Out of the competition of the main festival, *Animal Religion* from Spain present their show *Indomador*, pictured, in which a circus ringmaster performs daring feats, whilst attempting to control his inner animal, a comical yet punchy comment on identity.

Miguel Qyarzun, co-director of BE Festival, said: "Here, in the inclusive city of Birmingham, the multifaceted cultural identities and creativity of a continent will once again be celebrated."

There is a whole festival pass for £100 (£60 without dinner) or day/evening passes for £22, £14 or £12 concessions. See www.befestival.org or www.birmingham-rep.co.uk

Just Floyd ready for a chilled-out Sunday

Fans of Pink Floyd can chill out to an afternoon of their favourite sounds when tribute band Just Floyd play at Bilston's Robin 2 venue at 1pm on Sunday, focussing on the era of *Dark Side of the Moon*, *Wish You Were Here* and *The Wall*.

The same venue hosts Irish blues band Crow Black Chicken on Monday and a four-band bill of Midlands metal on Wednesday with Electus, Wakedown, Crows & Crosses and Michael Pritchard. More home grown hard rock can be heard on Saturday at the Slade Rooms in Wolverhampton when *Our World Below* top a five-band bill also featuring *Master's Call*, *My Brother The Wolf*, *Rustlung* and *Enemy Of Atlas*.

On Sunday there is contemporary Nashville country music at the Slade Rooms from duo Jon Stone and Kristy Osmunson, known as American Young.

Kemp converses and Decker rocks

An Audience with Martin Kemp on Tuesday evening at the Robin 2 in Bilston includes an hour-long question and answer session at the seated event. The 55-year-old, pictured, found fame as a pop heartthrob in *Spandau Ballet* in the 1980s, played *EastEnders* villain Steve Owen and was recently a judge on talent show *Let It Shine*.

Another '80s icon, Carol Decker, fronts her band T'Pau in concert at the Robin 2 on July 6. See therobin.co.uk or call 01902 401211.



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CHOICE



Melvyn Bragg

Melvyn Bragg on TV: The Box that Changed the World (BBC2, 9pm)
Ken Loach, Joan Bakewell, Trevor Phillips, Michael Grace, Martha Kearney, Ed Balls, Lyse Doucet and Alex Crawford join Melvyn Bragg as he explores the extraordinary impact British television has made on the nation's culture since its first great unifying moment – the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953. Filmed at Bafta, Bragg and his interviewees highlight the way television has reflected and influenced Great Britain has a whole, challenging authority, redefining celebrity, and evolving the concept of democracy.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 Mary Berry Cooks. (R) 12.00 BBC News: Weather. 12.15 Tennis from Eastbourne. The AEGON International final. 3.00 Escape to the Country. (R) 3.30 Film: Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade. (1989) Action adventure sequel, starring Harrison Ford and Sean Connery. 5.25 BBC News. 5.35 Regional Programme. 5.45 Pointless Celebrities. (R)
6.30 Doctor Who. Peter Capaldi's tenure as the Doctor draws close to its conclusion, as the Mondasian Cybermen rise. Not seen since the classic, pre-2005 series, the original Cybermen came from the Mondas, "Earth's twin planet", and posed a fearsome threat to the Time Lord and his companions. Now, as these sinister cyborgs begin a new conquest, and the Doctor makes a final stand to protect a tiny band of humans from utter destruction. Pearl Mackie and Matt Lucas also star as Bill and Nardole, Michelle Gomez reprises her role as Missy, while John Simm puts in an appearance as the Master. Last in the series.
7.30 Pitch Battle. Mel Giedroyc hosts the third heat of the choral music contest, as six more choirs and vocal groups battle for a place in the Grand Final. This week, young chamber choir Tring Park, musical theatre enthusiasts 16, a capella group Oxford Alternatives, classical quintet Vox-Xover, all-female pop outfit Vocalities, and Dublin barbershop chorus The Rampratts all seek to impress judges Gareth Malone, Kelis, and guest adjudicator Joe Jonas. Plus, Pitch Battle's resident music director Deke Sharon opens the contest with a musical mash-up.
9.00 Casualty. Sam steps down as medical director to take a more hands-on role in the ED, and a feisty patient pushes Dylan over the edge as he struggles to cope in the wake of Cal's death.
9.50 BBC News: Weather.; National Lottery Update.
10.10 Film: Avengers Assemble. (2012) Iron Man, Thor, Captain America and the Hulk join forces to defend Earth from an alien invasion. Superhero adventure, starring Robert Downey Jr.
12.25 Weather for the Week Ahead. 12.30 BBC News.

BBC2

**6.10 A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) 6.55 Film: Carnival Story. (1954) 8.30 Film: The Magpie. (1954) 10.00 Monty Halls' Great Irish Escape. (R) 11.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) 12.00 Food & Drink. (R) 12.30 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.15 Peter O'Toole: Talking Pictures. (R) 2.00 Film: Kidnapped. (1960) Historical adventure, starring Peter Finch. 3.30 Money for Nothing. (R) 4.15 Flog It! The team visit Blackpool Tower Circus. (R) 5.00 Gardeners' World. Rachel de Thame investigates how gardeners can aid honey bee conservation. (R)
6.00 The Day the Dinosaurs Died. An expedition to determine if an asteroid strike 66 million years ago triggered a catastrophe that killed off the dinosaurs and wiped out 75 per cent of all life on Earth. (R)
7.00 Nature's Wildest Weapons: Horns, Tusks and Antlers: Natural World. Professor Doug Emlen examines how animals use their bodies as weapons, from elephants to rhinoceros beetles, assessing whether they are more than just instruments of blunt force. (R)
8.00 Manchester International Festival: Everyone Welcome. Lermi Sissay tours Manchester's biennial international arts festival, which features more than 60 new works by local and international artists.
8.30 Dad's Army. Frazer is asked to look after the platoon's Lewis gun, but finds himself in hot water when he misplaces the spring – and fears it is has been left inside a coffin. (R)
9.00 Melvyn Bragg on TV: The Box that Changed the World. Melvyn Bragg is joined by celebrity guests as he explores the impact television has made on British culture since the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953.
11.00 Film: Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll. (2010) Biopic of influential punk singer Ian Dury, focusing on the impact his rise to fame and volatile personality had on his relationship with his son. With Andy Serkis and Bill Milner.
12.50 Film: The Deep. (2012) A trawler crewman swims to shore after his vessel capsizes, but is tormented by survivors' guilt. Fact-based drama, with Olafur Darri Olfason and Johann G. Johannsson. 2.20 This is BBC Two.**

ITV

**6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. 6.10 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) 6.20 Sooty. (R) 6.30 Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.50 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 7.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 10.25 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 10.55 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.20 The Simpsons. (R) 11.50 The Simpsons. (R) 12.20 The Simpsons. (R) 12.50 Four in a Bed. (R) 1.25 Four in a Bed. (R) 1.55 Four in a Bed. (R) 2.30 Four in a Bed. (R) 3.00 Four in a Bed. (R) 3.35 A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) 4.35 Big House, Little House. 5.35 Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It. (R)
6.30 Channel 4 News.
7.00 The Autistic Gardener. Alan Gardner comes to the aid of two families in London that are seeking to transform their adjoining back gardens into one big playground for their children. Claire and Tim, and their neighbours Jess and Karl have four boys between them, and while they all agree the space should provide the kids with a safe space to play, Claire and Tim seek a romantic plot, while Jess and Karl would like to bring a touch of the Mediterranean to their home. Plus, Alan heads to Austin, Texas, where he finds an unusual source of inspiration for this project – in the form of a turbo jet engine. Last in the series.
8.00 Film: Life of Pi. (2012) A writer interviews a man about the extraordinary events of his life. He describes his childhood in India, living in the zoo run by his father, and how the family and their animals were forced to relocate to Canada when he was a teenager. However, during the sea voyage, the ship sank and he was left adrift in a small boat with a ferocious tiger. Ang Lee's adventure based on Yann Martel's novel, starring Suraj Sharma and Irrfan Khan.
10.25 Film: Last Vegas. (2013) Four sixtiesomething friends decide to relive their wild youth with a trip to Las Vegas. Comedy, with Michael Douglas, Robert De Niro, Morgan Freeman and Kevin Kline.
12.30 Ramsay's Hotel Hell. (R) 1.15 Holyoaks. Omnibus. Hunter is devastated by Naeela's decision. 3.15 Ackley Bridge. (R) 4.10 Location, Location, Location. (R) 5.05 Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free. (R) 5.15 Fifteen to One. (R)
12.25 Jackpot247. 3.00 Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) 3.50 ITV Nightscreen.**

CHANNEL 4

**6.10 3rd Rock from the Sun. (R) 6.35 Mobil 1 The Grid. 7.05 Motor Sport: Ypres Rally. 7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.25 Frasier. (R) 8.55 Frasier. (R) 9.30 Frasier. (R) 10.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 10.25 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 10.55 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.20 The Simpsons. (R) 11.50 The Simpsons. (R) 12.20 The Simpsons. (R) 12.50 Four in a Bed. (R) 1.25 Four in a Bed. (R) 1.55 Four in a Bed. (R) 2.30 Four in a Bed. (R) 3.00 Four in a Bed. (R) 3.35 A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) 4.35 Big House, Little House. 5.35 Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It. (R)
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12.25 Jackpot247. 3.00 Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) 3.50 ITV Nightscreen.**

CHANNEL 5

**6.00 Milkshake! 10.15 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) 10.50 Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud 2. (R) 11.15 Police Interceptors. (R) 12.10 Police Interceptors. (R) 1.10 The Great British Benelux Handout. (R) 2.10 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) 3.10 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) 4.05 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) 5.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R)
6.00 5 News Weekend.
6.05 Funniest Dogs Behaving Badly. Comedians Desi Clarke and Katy Brand present a selection of the internet's most popular videos featuring dogs, including one with a pooch dressed in a tarantula costume. (R)
7.00 Blind Date. Paul O'Grady seeks a would-be sweetheart for Arnold, who emigrated from Africa to Manchester, and served with the British Army in Afghanistan for nearly five years. Arnold's idea of a perfect date would involve a spin on the London Eye, and Paul gives three ladies a chance to woo the gentlemanly soldier. Meanwhile, finance director Gemma – also from Manchester – seeks an adventurous Prince Charming to settle down and start a family with. Plus, the host catches up with last week's couples, to find out whether that initial spark of attraction could develop into something more.
8.00 Greatest Celebrity Wind-Ups Ever! Joe Pasquale revisits hilarious celebrity pranks, with first-hand accounts from the people responsible for staging the tricks, and the unfortunate stars on the receiving end.
9.00 Big Brother. Daily round-up of highlights, revealing how the housemates are getting on under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chat-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.
10.05 Moments That Rocked Talent Shows. A journey through the instances that rocked the genre and the fall-out that followed. (R)
11.30 Lip Sync Battle UK: Rufus Hound v Jorgie Porter. (R)
11.55 Access.
12.00 SuperCasino. 3.10 Film: Vampire Academy. (2014) 4.50 Great Artists. (R) 5.15 Wildlife SOS. (R)**

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Britain and the Sea 8.00 Nature's Great Events 9.00 Film: Kon-Tiki (2012) **10.50 Top of the Pops: 1984 11.50 Old Grey Whistle Test: 70's Gold 1.20 The Who at the Electric Proms 2.10 Totally British: 70s Rock 'n' Roll 3.10 Close**
ITV2
11.00 Take Me Out 12.10 You've Been Framed! Gold Harry's Favourites 1.10 Film: Dragonheart (1996) **2.15 FYI Daily 2.20 Film:** Dragonheart (1996) **3.10 Film:** Beethoven's 2nd (1993) **4.10 FYI Daily 4.15 Film:** Beethoven's 2nd (1993) **5.00 Film:** Flubber (1997) **6.00 FYI Daily 6.05 Film:** Flubber (1997) **6.50 Film:** The Wedding Planner (2001) **7.50 FYI Daily 7.55 Film:** The Wedding Planner (2001) **9.00 Love Island: The Weekly Hot List 10.00 Celebrity Juice 10.50 Family Guy 12.20 American Dad! 12.45 Film:** Get Him to the Greek (2010) **1.45 FYI Daily 1.50 Film:** Get Him to the Greek (2010) **2.50 Teleshopping 5.50 ITV2** Nightscreen
ITV3
11.40 Inspector Morse 1.55 Hans Christian Andersen: My Life as a Fairy Tale 3.50 Wyllife 4.55 Agatha Christie's Marple 9.00 Foyles of War 11.05 Law & Order: UK 2.10 TV3 Nightscreen 2.30 Teleshopping
ITV4
11.00 Film: Rio Bravo (1959) **12.05 FYI Daily 12.10 Film:** Rio Bravo (1959) **2.00 Tour de France Live. Coverage of stage one. 6.00 Storage Wars 7.00 Tour de France Highlights 8.00 The Big Fish Out 9.00 Film:** Eraser (1996) **10.00 FYI Daily 10.05 Film:** Eraser (1996) **11.20 Film:** Total Recall (1990) **12.20 FYI Daily 12.25 Film:** Total Recall (1990) **1.35 Tour de France Highlights 2.35 Counting Cars 3.00 Teleshopping**
E4
12.30 The Goldbergs 1.55 Film: Tooth Fairy (2010) **4.00 The Big Bang Theory 8.00 Film:** Thor (2011) **10.15 The Inbetweeners 1.20 Gogglebox 1.30 Tattoo Fixers 2.25 Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D 3.10 The Inbetweeners 4.05 How I Met Your Mother**
Film4
11.00 Stuart Little (1999) 1.00 Hugo (2011) 3.25 Dunston Checks In (1996) 5.10 The Rewrite (2014) 7.20 Chronicle (2012) 9.00 Bad Neighbours (2014) A suburban couple enter into a vicious game of one-upmanship with the raucous student household living next door. Comedy, starring Seth Rogen. 10.50 Extraterrestrial (2014) 12.55 Five Deadly Venoms (1978) 3.05 Close

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CHOICE



George Best

George Best: All By Himself (BBC2, 9pm)
Documentary telling the story of the reserved young football prodigy from Belfast who became a global superstar, but whose career was blighted by his battle with the pressures of fame. The film reveals how the player dubbed El Beatie helped Manchester United to win two league titles and the European Cup, but his extravagant lifestyle led to various problems, most notably alcoholism.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 Sunday Morning Live. 11.00 Regional Programme. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.15 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) 2.00 Money for Nothing. (R) 2.45 Escape to the Country. (R) 3.45 Eat Well for Less? (R) 4.45 Songs of Praise. 5.20 Sue Barker: Our Wimbledon. 6.35 BBC News. 6.50 Regional Programme. 7.00 Countryfile. Ellie Harrison meets a family making natural cordials and dresses using their own elderflowers, before visiting Worcester Cathedral to catch a glimpse of its lesser horseshoe bats, thought to be the only urban population in the country. Adam Henson heads to the Peak District and explains why he has decided to send his beef cattle to an animal sanctuary in Norfolk rather than the slaughterhouse. 8.00 Antiques Roadshow. The roving team values more decorative objects and rarities belonging to the public. 9.00 Poldark. A grain ship is raided by starving villagers, and George arranges a harsh punishment for the desperate peasants while throwing a lavish Christmas party to impress the local gentry. Caroline hears news that the Admiralty has arranged for the release of the British officers, but Ross is not convinced, lamenting the loss of Wheel Leisure to George, and having seen miners broken by the terms of their labour. Demetza gives birth to a daughter, and warns Morwenja against a relationship with Drake. 10.00 BBC News. 10.20 Regional Programme. 10.30 Miranda Hart – My What I Call Live Show. A filmed performance from the comedian's nationwide stand-up tour, combining stand-up comedy, sketches, songs and dance and featuring anecdotes ranging from flautist first dates to socially inept children. (R) 11.30 The Week the Landlords Moved In. A transformative series challenging some of Britain's most successful landlords to spend an eye-opening week living in one of their own rental properties. (R) 12.30 Weather for the Week Ahead. 12.35 BBC News.

BBC2

6.20 The Instant Gardener. (R) 7.05 Gardeners' World. (R) 8.05 The Beechgrove Garden. 8.35 Countryfile. (R) 9.35 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. 11.05 Wimbledon 2016 Review. 12.00 Athletics: Diamond League Highlights. 1.00 Athletics: World Championship Team Trials. Live coverage from Alexander Stadium in Birmingham. 5.00 Inside the Factory: How Our Favourite Foods Are Made. (R) 6.00 The Fifteen Billion Pound Railway: The Final Countdown. Part one of two. Return of the documentary about the construction of the Crossrail train line linking east and west London, following those racing to complete the work in time for the first trains to run in May. Engineer Linda Miller and her team must battle ancient fault lines that threaten the Farringdon station site with flooding, while construction workers build innovative floating rail tracks directly under the Barbican Concert Hall. Julian Barratt narrates. (R) 7.00 Dragons' Den. The panel assesses more money-spinning ideas, including an unusual coffee lid, a range of coconut-based products, and a safety device for hairstyling gadgets. Evan Davis presents. (R) 8.00 The Life Swap Adventure. A daredevil Tennessee cowboy and a fun-loving Welsh office worker – both heirs to their lucrative family businesses – trade places hoping to find a new perspective on their lives. 9.00 Film: George Best: All By Himself. (2016) Documentary telling the story of the reserved young football prodigy from Belfast who became a global superstar, but whose career was blighted by his battle with the pressures of fame. The film reveals how the player dubbed El Beatie helped Manchester United to win two league titles and the European Cup, but his extravagant lifestyle led to various problems, most notably alcoholism. 10.30 Mock the Week. (R) 11.05 White Gold. Vincent finds himself kicked out of his family home, and Lavender is drawn back into the world of rock and roll as he has his own career crisis. (R) 11.35 Film: Burke & Hare. (2010) 1.00 Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) 2.00 Holby City. (R) 3.00 This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. 6.10 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) 6.20 Sooty. (R) 6.30 Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.50 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 7.00 Oddbods. (R) 7.05 Super 4. (R) 7.20 Marvel Avengers Assemble. (R) 7.45 Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) 8.10 Ben 10. 8.25 ITV News. 8.30 Weekend. 9.25 Judge Rinder. (R) 10.20 Judge Rinder. (R) 11.20 Tipping Point. (R) 12.25 ITV News: Weather. 12.35 Sabushka. (R) 1.35 The Voice Kids. (R) 3.05 Bear Grylls Survival School. (R) 3.30 Film: Hulk. (2003) Comic-strip adventure, starring Eric Bana. 6.05 Regional Programme; Weather. 6.15 ITV News; Weather. 6.30 Live 2017 FIFA Confederations Cup. The final (Kick-off 7.00pm). Coverage of the showpiece match from Saint Petersburg Stadium in Russia. Brazil produced a fine performance in front of their own fans four years ago to lift the trophy after defeating then world and European champions Spain 3-0, with Fred scoring early goals in each half and player of the tournament Neymar also finding the net. Subsequent programmes subject to change. 9.30 The Loch. Craig Petrie becomes a suspect in both murders, and Blake assists in questioning him. However, he quickly turns the tables on the police and casts doubt on Leighton's innocence. Annie investigates his claims further, and her loyalty to Leighton is shaken when she discovers his alibi is a lie. Smilie tries to comfort Jojo's father, but is rejected. 10.30 ITV News; Weather. 10.50 Lethal Weapon. As Riggs' attachment to Karen Palmer deepens, so do his impulsive actions – a cause of further concern for Captain Avery. Clayne Crawford and Kevin Rahm star. (R) 11.45 Take Me Out. Men try to impress 30 single women and win a date – but must get the female participants to keep their lights on as a sign of approval. Paddy McGuinness presents. (R) 12.40 Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. 3.00 Motorsport UK. Action from Oulton Park. 3.50 ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 3rd Rock from the Sun. (R) 6.35 3rd Rock from the Sun. (R) 7.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.55 Frasier. (R) 8.25 Frasier. (R) 8.55 Eating Well with Hensley + Hensley. 9.30 Sunday Brunch. 12.30 Eat the Week. 1.30 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) 2.30 Film: Dante's Peak. (1997) 4.35 A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) 5.35 Homes by the Sea. 6.30 Channel 4 News. 7.00 Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud follows software executive Andy and garden designer Nicki, who are planning to build a "floating" house on the Thames, which would be the first of its kind in the UK. Their architect has come up with an ambitious, experimental design that would see the whole property magically rise up with the flood waters. However, no one knows whether it will work, and the project soon becomes bogged down in the logistical challenges of bringing to fruition such a complex structure on a small island that is only accessible by a narrow footbridge. (R) 8.00 Dunkirk. The New Evidence. Documentary examining the famous Second World War evacuation of Allied soldiers – codenamed Operation Dynamo – from the beaches of Dunkirk, France, between May 26 and June 4, 1940. 9.00 The Handmaid's Tale. When a trade delegation from Mexico comes to Gilead, Offred discovers several shocking secrets. Serena Joy reflects on her marriage and the role she played in Gilead's inception. Drama based on the novel by Margaret Atwood and set in the dystopia of Gilead, a totalitarian society in what was formerly part of the United States. Starring Elisabeth Moss and James Strachan. 10.15 50 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Jimmy Carr hosts the words-and-numbers quiz, as Jon Richardson and David O'Doherty take on Johnny Vegas and Jamie Laing. Holly Walsh helps out in Dictionary Corner. (R) 11.10 Film: Trance. (2013) Crime thriller, starring James McAvoy. 1.00 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) 1.50 The Last Leg. (R) 2.45 KOTV Boxing Weekly. 3.15 Gillette World Sport. 3.40 Mobil 1 The Grid. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Pip Ahoy! 6.10 Milkshake! Monkey. (R) 6.15 Milkshake! Bop Box. (R) 6.20 Mr Men. 6.30 Peppa Pig. (R) 6.35 Peppa Pig. (R) 6.40 Wissper. (R) 6.50 Paw Patrol. (R) 7.00 Bob the Builder. (R) 7.15 Fireman Sam. (R) 7.25 Oly the Little White Van. (R) 7.30 Oly the Little White Van. (R) 7.35 Paw Patrol. (R) 7.50 Blaze and the Monster Machines. 8.10 Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) 8.25 Wissper. (R) 8.40 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 8.55 Shimmer and Shine. (R) 9.15 Little Princess. (R) 9.30 Peppa Pig. (R) 9.40 Peppa Pig. (R) 9.50 Peppa Pig. (R) 10.00 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 10.15 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. 10.55 The Gadget Show. (R) 11.45 Police Interceptors. (R) 12.00 Police Interceptors. (R) 12.40 Film: Made of Honor. (2008) 4.40 Film: 13 Going on 30. (2004) 5.40 5 News Update. 5.45 Film: 13 Going on 30. (2004) 6.30 Film: The Flintstones. (1994) Blue-collar caveman Fred Flintstone is promoted to manager and gets embroiled in an embezzlement plot. Live-action version of the cartoon comedy, with John Goodman and Rick Moranis. 8.05 That's So 1984. A look at the year that saw the Brighton hotel bombing, Torvill and Dean win gold at the Winter Olympics with their famous Bolero routine, the death of comedian Eric Morecambe and Virgin Atlantic Airways make its inaugural flight. Featuring hits by Black Lace, Cyndi Lauper, Sade and Frankie Goes to Hollywood. (R) 8.55 5 News Weekend. 9.00 Big Brother. Daily round-up of highlights, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chat-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley. 11.05 OMG. The story of a woman who has made several extreme changes to her body, including amputating a finger. Plus, people with large amounts of body piercing and tattoos. 11.05 Film: The Vow. (2012) A woman wakes up after a car crash with no memory of her husband, who tries to get her to fall in love with him again. Romantic drama, with Rachel McAdams. 1.05 SuperCasino. 3.10 The Hotel Inspector. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Handmade in Japan: Samurai Sword **7.30** Handmade in Japan: The Kimono **8.00** Handmade in Japan: Pottery **8.30** Schönbrunn Summer Night Concert from Vienna **10.00** Onk: Man Loves Pig – Storyville **11.20** Climate Change by Numbers **12.35** Darwin's Struggle: The Evolution of the Origin of Species **1.35** Nature's Great Events **2.35** Boxing at the Movies: Kings of the Ring **3.35** Close **ITV2**
11.15 The Voice Kids **12.45** Film: The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) **1.45** FYI Daily **1.50** Film: The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) **2.35** Film: A Cinderella Story (2004) **3.35** FYI Daily **3.40** Film: A Cinderella Story (2004) **4.30** Film: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (2005) **5.30** FYI Daily **5.35** Film: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (2005) **6.45** Film: Step Up 3 (2010) **7.45** FYI Daily **7.50** Film: Step Up 3 (2010) **9.00** Love Island **10.00** Love Island: AfterSun **11.00** Family Guy **12.30** American Dad! **1.55** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.25** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen **ITV3**
11.25 The Darling Buds of May **12.40** Bertie and Elizabeth **2.50** Wycliffe **3.55** Foyle's War **6.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **8.00** The Bozra Cruise **10.05** Law & Order: UK **12.05** Wire in the Blood **3.30** May the Best House Win **5.10** Rising Damp **5.35** ITV3 Nightscreen **ITV4**
11.00 Tour de France Live **4.45** Hat-Trick Heroes **5.00** Prawn Stars **6.00** Fierce **7.00** Tour de France Highlights **8.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special **9.00** Film: The Deer Hunter (1978) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10** Film: The Deer Hunter (1978) **12.45** The Football Mavericks **1.45** Tour de France Highlights **2.40** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **E4**
11.00 The Goldbergs **12.30** Film: Ferris Bueller's Day Off (1986) **2.35** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** The Crystal Maze: Celebrity Special **9.00** Film: The Inbetweeners Movie (2011) **11.00** Film: Underworld: Awakening (2012) **12.45** Rude Tube **1.50** 8 Out of 10 Cats **2.35** How I Met Your Mother **3.20** Hollyoaks **Film4**
11.00 The Ladykillers (1955) **1.00** The Bang Trap (1961) **3.35** Moomins on the Riviera (2014) **5.10** Evolution (2001) **7.20** Airplane! (1980) **9.00** The Monuments Men (2014) **11.20** Monsters (2010) **1.10** Bullhead (2011) **3.50** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Stalking Elizabeth, Channel 5, 3.20pm
After the death of her daughter, a woman tries to regain a sense of normality by returning to teaching. However, she is assigned a mentor who develops an unsettling obsession for her. Drama, starring Jes Macallan, Aaron Douglas and Nic Bishop. (2014)

TUESDAY
Presumed Dead in Paradise, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A teenager is invited to spend a holiday on a Pacific island with her stepmother, and seemingly drowns. She survives her brush with death and swims to shore, only to discover her stepmother may have arranged the accident. As she investigates, she uncovers a sinister conspiracy with links to her dead father. Thriller, starring Malese Jow. (2013)

WEDNESDAY
In the Dark, Channel 5, 3.20pm
A woman is blinded following an accident in which her husband and child are killed. She employs a nurse as a carer, only to discover he has developed a dangerous obsession with her, which turns violent as she begins to regain her independence. Thriller, starring Elisabeth Rohm. (2013)



Begin Again, Friday, BBC1, 11.05pm

THURSDAY
George Best: All By Himself, BBC2, 11.15pm
Documentary telling the story of the reserved young football prodigy from Belfast who became a global superstar, but whose career was blighted by his battle with the pressures of fame. The film reveals how the player dubbed El Beatle helped Manchester United to win two league titles and the European Cup, but his extravagant lifestyle led to various problems, most notably alcoholism. (2016)

FRIDAY
Begin Again, BBC1, 11.05pm
A singer-songwriter is left cast adrift when her boyfriend leaves her after becoming a star. While performing in New York's East Village, she meets a record company executive whose career is in tatters, beginning a collaboration that turns both their lives around. Comedy drama, starring Keira Knightley and Mark Ruffalo. (2013)

It's no song and Dance for Charles in returning series

During an interview with the Metro in 2013, actor Charles Dance was asked about the public's perception of him as upper-class.

"It's a complete misconception – there's nothing aristocratic about me," he insisted.

"Some of it is down to how my face is put together. I'm not typecast to the extent that someone who has played the same character on a soap opera for 25 years would be."

But despite his protestations, the tall, sandy-haired actor doesn't deny he has made a career out of playing aristocratic and/or bureaucratic characters, mostly villains.

"I've earned a reasonably good living from it," he added.

Dance was born in Redditch, Worcestershire, in 1946 – the son of Eleanor (née Perks) and Walter Dance.

Growing up in Plymouth, he attended Widesley Technical School for Boys in Crownhill and later attended The Leicester College of

Arts (now known as De Montfort University), where he studied Graphic Design and Photography.

Dance developed a taste for the theatre by listening to two elderly actors who ran a pub in his Dover neighbourhood. He became a member of the Royal Shakespeare Company during the mid-to-late-1970s and was in many of their productions in London and Stratford.

Dance made his TV debut in 1974, in BBC mystery series Father Brown, but his big break came 10 years later when he played the role of Guy Perron in The Jewel in the Crown, an adaptation of Paul Scott's novels that also made stars of Geraldine James and Art Malik.

Since then, he has also starred in many other British TV dramas such as Edward the Seventh, Murder Rooms, Randall and Hopkirk, Rebecca, The Phantom of the Opera, Fingersmith and Bleak House (for which he received an Emmy nomination).

He also played Guy Spencer, the

pro-Nazi propagandist, in Foyle's War, had an ongoing role as Dr Maitreys in ITV drama Trinity, made a guest appearance in BBC drama Merlin, and played a vainglorious version of himself in Jam & Jerusalem.

In 2010, he signed up to play Havelock Vetinari in Sky's adaptation of Terry Pratchett's Going Postal, before then securing what would be one of his most memorable roles – Tywin Lannister in HBO's hit fantasy series Game of Thrones.

As Dance says, the aristocratic world he tends to inhabit on screen is nothing like his own background, and we find out all about it as the new series of genealogy show Who Do You Think You Are? begins tonight.

Dance's mother Eleanor was an under-house parlour maid and he wants to find out if he comes from a long line of servants, or if he can uncover some grander origins.

The actor is also determined to learn about his engineer father.



Who Do You Think You Are?, Thursday, BBC1, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
The Betrayed Girls, BBC1, 8.30pm
The 2012 trial of nine Asian men who were found guilty of the grooming, rape and sex trafficking of teenage girls in Rochdale shocked the nation – and five years on, the case continues to cause outrage. In May, the BBC broadcast Three Girls, a powerful drama which explored how the girls were let down by the authorities. Now this feature-length documentary hears from the real people at the heart of the story. It includes testimony from the victims as well as those who spoke out for them.

TUESDAY
Life Behind Bars: Visiting Hour, Channel 4, 9pm
The UK's prison population is an at all-time high, with over 86,000 people behind bars – which suggests that there's also a growing number of people visiting jailed loved ones. Cameras have been given unprecedented access to the visiting room at HMP Low Moss, one of the largest maximum-security prisons in Scotland, to see how the inmates doing hard time can try to reconnect with the lives they once had, even if it's just for 60 minutes. Among the stories featured are that of Gary and Charley, who aren't letting a lack of a

release date stand in the way of their wedding planning, while Mike receives a visit from his aging father, who he realises might not live to see him released. The programme also hears from wardens and staff about the importance of visiting hour.

WEDNESDAY
Joanna Lumley's India, ITV, 9pm
Despite being most people's idea of the quintessential English rose, Joanna Lumley was actually born in India during the last days of the Raj and both sides of her family called the country home for several generations. In her latest three-part series she returns to the land of her birth for a deeply personal journey. In tonight's first episode, Joanna travels from the very south of the country all the way to the foothills of the Himalayas. In Madurai, she explores the dazzling Meenakshi temple which comes alive at night with religious celebration, before going for a hair-raising motorcycle ride on the winding road to the Valparai Plateau. Later, she has an encounter with a female elephant and her calf, before exploring the world's biggest film studio

complex, Tollywood, and finishing up four hundred miles north of Calcutta, in Sikkim, where her grandfather was stationed for many years.

THURSDAY
Circus Kids: Our Secret World, Channel 5, 9pm
Some children don't have to run away to join the circus – they are born into it. This new three-part series ventures into a secretive and closely guarded world, steeped in centuries of tradition, to learn more about the lives of the young performers. It finds that while they may have freedoms that some other kids can only dream of, they also live at a demanding pace during the gruelling circus season, which runs from February to November. In this first episode, we meet 17-year-old



Joanna Lumley's India, Wednesday, ITV, 9pm

stunt ride Peter, who is the son of a circus owner and struggles to understand why anyone would want to live in just one place, and twins Esmerelda and Scarlett, who are already the little stars of the big top at the age of just two.

FRIDAY
The Secret World of Posh Pets, ITV, 8pm
In Doncaster, South Yorkshire, Bryn sets out to breed over £2million-worth of falcons to sell to the super-rich Sheikh and princes of the Middle East. High-earning city boy Zane sets out on a Bengal cat-breeding adventure, producing £1,000 kittens then reinvesting the proceeds in a super-rare domestic black panther. Meanwhile, having spent £4,000 on catering, dresses and miniature horse drawn carriages, Debbie can witness her Chihuahuas Honey and Joey tying the knot, in what is surely the doggy wedding of the year.

Peter Kay's Comedy Shuffle, BBC1, 9pm
The comedian, actor, writer and director recalls an ambitious nationwide challenge for Comic Relief and discusses his involvement in an armed raid with chat show supreme Michael Parkinson.

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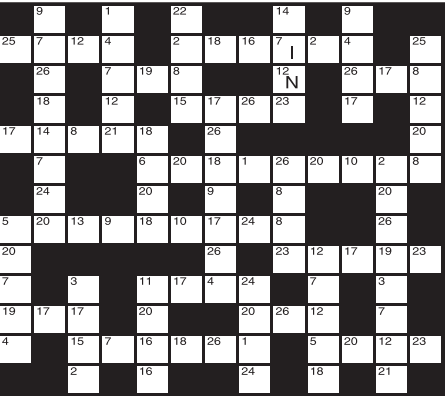
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BRAIN GYM

No.436

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
T	C	B	M	Y	R	S	P	L	D	G	E	X
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
O	Z	K	I	H	J	A	F	Q	W	N	U	V

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

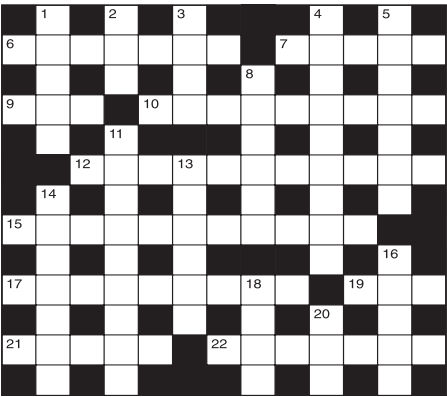
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- New cadet or old soldier (7)
- A patch put on a cuff, perhaps (5)
- Company that was floated to avoid liquidation (3)
- Nice trait, but somehow puzzling (9)
- Doing very well at a job at the Mint? (6,5)
- This side gains nothing but pleasure from its activities (7,4)
- Having the look of a powerful flyer (5-4)
- Come to a conclusion and object (3)
- Order a form (5)
- Distributors can't when supplies do (4,3)

Down

- Assumes it's durable (5)
- Water that is about a hundred degrees lower than steam (3)
- It may be caused by a pin lying around (4)
- Those on this roll may make their mark (9)
- Relatives unite as in a crisis (7)
- A girl properly adjusted (6)
- False description of atheists? (9)
- Accustoms user in new process (6)
- Can I provide a friendly solution? (7)
- Not appropriate, being excessive (5)
- Big lake up country (4)
- Father consumes eastern vegetable (3)



Quick Clues:

Across

- Lead (7)
- Moist (5)
- Breach (3)
- Lying down (9)
- Deceive (11)
- Piercing (11)
- Antagonist (9)
- Aged (3)
- Lure (5)
- Versus (7)

Down

- Fracture (5)
- Perform (3)
- Inactive (4)
- Riotous (9)
- Worthiness (7)
- Apex (6)
- Course (9)
- Powerful (6)
- Rally (7)
- Embrace (5)
- Brink (4)
- Strike (3)

Sudoku

1			3	9				4
				5				
6		9			8	5		3
	2			9			8	
4			5		2			6
	8			7	3		1	
5		2					3	1
				2				
8	9		6		1		5	2

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

7	9	3	2	4	8	6	1	5
2	6	1	7	6	5	4	9	3
5	6	4	3	1	9	8	7	2
9	1	6	5	3	7	2	8	4
8	4	5	9	2	1	3	6	7
3	7	2	6	8	4	9	5	1
1	2	7	8	9	3	5	4	6
6	5	8	4	7	2	1	3	9
4	3	9	1	5	6	7	2	8

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Flight of steps; 8 Officers; 9 Ions; 10 Hunger; 12 Overdo; 14 Ascend; 16 Thrash; 18 Star; 20 Snapshot; 22 Have a good mind. Down: 1 All fours; 2 Egging; 3 Style; 4 Offshoot; 5 Strike; 6 Open; 11 Redesign; 13 Discount; 15 Earner; 17 Resume; 19 Tear; 21 Amok.
QUICK - Across: 7 Recrimination; 8 Distance; 9 Easy; 10 Lament; 12 Indeed; 14 Reform; 16 Relate; 18 Chic; 20 Taciturn; 22 Perpendicular. Down: 1 Dedicate; 2 Write; 3 Omen; 4 Inferior; 5 Attend; 6 Toss; 11 Tempting; 13 External; 15 Occupy; 17 Let out; 19 Heed; 21 Crib.

Quiz

- Who wrote the novel The History of Tom Jones?
- Of what is encephalitis the inflammation?
- Which veteran TV cook died in December 1994?
- Which country's parliament is the Folketing?
- What was a highwayman without a horse called?
- Of which country is Cape Byron the eastern extremity?
- What do we call a cloud of gas and dust in space?
- Which king was the intended victim of the Gunpowder Plot?
- Who wrote the play Look Back in Anger?
- Which Highland town became a city in 2001?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Electrical capacitance; 2 Enid Blyton; 3 Light-Emitting Diode; 4 Lighthouse of Alexandria; 5 Vientiane; 6 Indian; 7 Hedgehog; 8 Signs and symbols; 9 Rabies; 10 Henrik Ibsen.

Niner: LATHERING

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

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gives an element,
gives a second element,
gives atoms.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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Kevin Yarwood, with wife Amanda and Andy Cooper



Captain of his Shipp – Mark at the tiller

“It’s an experience like no other,” says Kevin Yarwood of Anglo Welsh.

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Yes, there’s nothing quite like messing about on the water. Or in our case bumbling.

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For novices such as ourselves, Anglo Welsh help choose a route to suit and show the ropes, quite literally in our case as the ropes came in very handy.

Kevin operates from the Great Haywood base, which he has turned into a mini family affair, alongside his wife, son, sister and brother. This, together with more than 25 years of experience, allows Kevin to offer a more personal service.

“I first started out doing a Saturday job and I have been here ever since,” he said. It was Kevin who took us on the first stage of our journey, showing us around the boat and then giving us our instructions.

We were ‘let loose’ on Abi – all day boats are named after the staff members, their partners or children. There are kitchen facilities on board all boats and wi-fi on the holiday fleet.

There were just two of us, but at just £99 for a day’s hire, a party booking would be ideal, particularly as it means taking it in turns at the helm.

For ourselves, however, it became apparent that if there was a driving test for narrowboats we would have failed. We were taken by Kevin along the Trent &

Mersey to the first of the locks along the route.

Tuition was given and other relevant instructions passed on. After the safe handover, we were then left to fend for ourselves. So what could possibly go wrong? I am a man after all. And with a nautical surname. Surely I could do it! We were only travelling at four miles an hour when all is said and done.

PASSING

The reality was much different. Cruising? Not really. All at sea would be a more apt description.

While other more seasoned boaters were effortlessly passing it was not so easy for us. In fact, our navigational skills, or rather the lack of them, had us turning the air bluer than the boat we were in.

Kevin had told us that to steer left, the tiller had to be moved to the right and vice versa. But the brain had trouble computing this information, which is where the

ropes proved useful. Surroundings were tranquil, we passed the back of Shugborough, heading towards Colwich and then the Wolsley Bridge area. It was pleasant to moor up and have a bite to eat and watch the experts pass on their way.

There is always something to see and do along the way, with the Wolsley Arms a particularly popular stop-off point. As for the boating fraternity, one could not really wish to meet a friendlier bunch, with a cheery wave as they passed and help as we hit trouble.

But Kevin’s correct – there really is nothing like it.

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Peugeot's updated 308 is sharp, stylish and imposing

By Dave Brown

We're big fans of the 308 hatchback and estate and although it has proved a sought-after member of the Peugeot range here in the UK, it hasn't quite hit the heights it has reached in its home country, where it sits proudly at the top of its segment in terms of popularity.

On this side of the channel, it is certainly in the top 10, but, as the company admits, 'closer to 10 than one'. Perhaps the comprehensive refresh and price reductions announced this summer will get things moving in the right direction.

The car has new, sharper styling and Peugeot's latest efficient engines and touchscreen connectivity. On the outside, there is an imposing new vertical grille and LED daytime running lights. Inside, Peugeot's i-Cockpit includes a 9.7-inch touchscreen, equipped with 3D satnav and new graphics. The new car builds on the EuroNCAP five-star rating its predecessor achieved with enhanced safety tech to bring it in line with its widely-admired 3008 SUV.

The new car looks great. Sharp, stylish and imposing, it will appeal to parents who are happy with family life but haven't totally forgotten what it's like to have fun behind the wheel. New elliptical headlamps come with integral LED daytime running lights while the rear lights have a distinctive three-claw shape.



Inside the car hasn't been changed too much

Short front and rear overhangs make the car very maneuverable and contribute to excellent road-handling ability.

Allure, GT Line and GT models feature a large glass roof as standard. Comfort levels are fine inside and everything is of a nice quality – there is plenty of room for mum, dad and the kids, although some rivals do offer more space.

Inside the car, not too much has changed over the previous incarnation, with the cabin plush and comfortable. As we've mentioned, the i-Cockpit looks great and adds a sporty feel to a family car but might not be wholly visible through the steering wheel for drivers of certain heights and builds.

The materials used are of high quality, giving the car a welcome, premium feel.

But practicality is key for family buyers of course and the estate features the largest load space in its class (660 litres with the parcel shelf in place; a whopping 1,775 litres with the rear seats folded and the parcel shelf removed).

We had the chance to take the 308 GT (£25,101) on a spin along Germany's fast-paced autobahns, and around the twisty mountain roads on the Germany/Austria border, not far from Salzburg.

It coped with everything we threw at it and provided a genuinely enjoyable and absorbing drive. The i-Cockpit infotainment system works well, while the gearbox is taut and quick and you feel in complete control as you enjoy the drive, try to admire the view from time to time, and dodge the many cyclists and hikers enjoying the scenery.

The Peugeot 308 has seen price reductions of, on average, £650 compared to equivalent models in the outgoing range. In some cases, savings of more than £1,000 can be made. This is a nod perhaps to the fact that the first incarnation of the car hasn't sold as well as hoped in the UK and Peugeot is looking to make up ground on key rivals.

Spec levels are generous, and connectivity is king with the new 308. Safety is to the fore, too, with a range of advanced driver assistance systems such as distance alert and intelligent emergency braking assistance.

Who would buy one? Families, families and more families... at least that's what Peugeot is hoping. Professional people who want something a bit different style-wise but can easily communicate on the move will also be drawn in, no doubt, and the GT and GTi models will appeal to younger drivers too (and people who are young at heart).



There are new elliptical headlamps

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By Ian Donaldson

Inside, all is changed too but Mazda has kept the sense of order you feel in all its cars, so there is a lot of nicely applied blackness, set off a little by a dash insert that looks like the viciously expensive layering of a Japanese knife. It works well and, yes, adds to the premium feel dust Mazda is keen to sprinkle on the newcomer.

That is unless you are tempted by one of the pleasantly few options. There is only one non-chargeable paint (a flat white) so any other finish will cost at least £560, with a new version of Mazda's fetching and popular soul red adding a hefty £800.

Engines

Tempting options are few but include stone

Mazda's new car is heavier than the old one because so much extra sonic deadening has been applied

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A row of four cars is shown from a front-three-quarter perspective. From left to right, the cars are black, blue, red, and yellow. The blue and red cars are the most prominent, with the red car being a Mazda RX-8. The yellow car is a convertible. The cars are parked on a light-colored surface against a white background.



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Manufacturers of all Concrete Products
eg. Concrete Posts, Gravel Boards
All work guaranteed Insurance work undertaken
Over 15 years experience (Public liability covered)
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ROWAN TREE & GARDEN SERVICES LTD

*Tree Surgeon Specialist *Stump Grinding/Root Removal
*Hedges Pruned/Shaped *Jungles Cleared/Full Landscapes
*Fencing *Turfing *Concreting *Driveways & Patios
*Plus Much More Call Now For a No Obligation Quotation
WWW.ROWANGROUP.CO.UK
01384 213644 or 07733 226568
AGE CONCERN & Local Authority Contractor, N.P.T.C. qualified,
Public Liability Insurance (£5 million) All staff C.R.B. Certified
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All electrical work undertaken
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No job too small
★ **FREE ESTIMATES** ★
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Professional Tree Surgeon
All aspects of tree work undertaken
• CONTRACT TREE CLIMBER
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• STUMP GRINDING
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• GARDEN CLEARANCES
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PLUMBING & HEATING ENGINEER
Gas Fitting, Boiler Servicing and Immersion Heaters, Multi Point Water Heaters, Landlord's Gas Certificates, Boilers changed
Guild of Master Craftsmen Gas Safe Registered
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Get your boiler serviced
Special Offers Now On!
Insulation, repairs and services on boilers, fires and cookers
Install A band condensing boiler with free wireless room stat from £1250
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SPECIAL OFFERS ON FULL HEATING SYSTEMS
NATURAL & LPG GAS
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1

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2

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3

Post to...
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3 Market Street, Stourbridge DY8 1AB

Local Specialists



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Free Quotations
B.P.C.A. Accredited
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One of the Leading Roofing Companies
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● Gutters Cleaned From £15
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SPECIAL OFFERS
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Premium Products Expertly Fitted
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UPVC FASCIAS, SOFFITS &
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Quality

- uPVC Fascias
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- Guttering
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& Monumental Masons
For your nearest branch
call 01902 892635
wombournefuneralservices.co.uk

lost & found
LOST—Large black cat, Buffery Park area, Dudley, distinctive yellow eyes. Much loved Family pet. 07772 402743.

religious notices
christadelphian

EVIDENCES FOR THE TRUTH OF THE BIBLE The internal evidence, July 2, at 6pm. The Community Centre, High Street, Kingswinford. Or write to The Dawn (ref:KCE) 5 Station Road, Carlton, Notts. NG4 3AT for free information pack or ring 01384 886544 for recorded message.

1 Family

elderly & disabled
UPRIGHT CHAIR With wings and fire certificate, HSL, £45. Four wheel walker with seat, hardly used £25. 01902 256280.
WRECKIN STAIRLIFTS reconditioned lifts from £799. New available. 01952 405397/07897 273617

2 Leisure Time

bikes
HYBRID CYCLE
Marin Mill Valley. Very good condition, 27gear, V brakes Computer Pump, Beam rack and bag. Bar bag. Spares.
£175.
01902 757331.

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BIGGEST SATURDAY BOOTSALE
Catering positions available
A454 Rudge Heath between Wolverhampton and Bridgnorth By Royal Oak pub island WV6 7EE
07890 267 041

GIANT THURSDAY CAR BOOT SALE
This Thursday and every Thursday
6am - 2pm at
Mill Lane, Saredon WV10 7LJ
Tel: 07631 192 116
ASHWOOD CAR BOOT Sundays from 6am. By Roberts Farm Shop on A449, DY6 0AA. 07710 644908. www.ashwoodcarboot.co.uk

BEST SUNDAY BOOTSALE
Now on A34, Cannock, Brocton, between Cannock and Stafford ST17 0SG
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WEDNESDAY BOOT SALE
Now at Pouk Lane, A461, Springfield, Muckley Corner Lichfield WS14 0ET

SATURDAY BOOT SALE
Boat Lane, Muckley Corner, Lichfield WS14 0BU
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caravans / motorhomes
A BEAUTIFUL PARK NR LUDLOW 35x12 caravans from £10,000. Gym Par 3 golf, bowls, why go further? www.bcpark.co.uk 01584823433

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BAILEY MAGENTA

2 berth, new motor mover, Bradcot porch awning, waste water carriers, new water pump, complete service done, no damp (tested), good battery.
£2,200 ono.
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CLASSIC MOTORHOME long MoT, 32mpg, 67k miles, petrol, 2 litre, 4 berth, cooker, fridge. £6,250 ono. 0121 421 7829.
REFURBISHED CARAVAN FOR SALE! Central Heating and sleeps 8, £10,995. Deposits from 10%, 12 Month Park, Borth. Call Paul 07950 944721.

STARTER HOLIDAY HOME 12 foot, in excellent condition, on 12 month park, with fishing lake, shop, restaurant and bars. Also weekend entertainment. £5,995 ono. 07751 795289.

STERLING Eccles Elite Emerald, lightweight, 4-berth, 2008, end bathroom, cassette toilet, full cooker, £7,995. 07835 713432

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WANTED ALL CARAVANS
Any age or condition
Also motorhomes wanted.
TOP PRICES PAID
Immediate collection.
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Motorhome for you and get the best possible price. Severn Valley Leisure, DY8 4HP. 01384 390183

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for working 50's-80s tribute band.
Backing vocals advantageous, commitment essential.
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holidays

caravan sales

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Disabled Facilities
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travel abroad

READERS ARE REMINDED to check with any Advertisers that their holiday costs are fully covered by a recognised bonding or insurance scheme.

what's on

antique fairs

ANTIQUA/COLLECTORS FAIR Kinver Comm Centre, Sun 2nd July (also Bromsgrove every Fri) EST 1979. Waverley. Next Book Fair Sun 16th July. Stalls available for all. Home made refreshments. 0121 550 4381

markets

STOURBRIDGE CAR BOOT
At Stourbridge Rugby Club
Open every Wednesday from 24th May
07957 399964

3 Home & Services

furniture

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BROWN LEATHER three seater settee, 2 seater and 1 seater, very good condition. Offers. Please call 01384 377965.

items for sale

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED That the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

HAND SEWING machine, just had full service, perfect working order. £75. 01384 292616.

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

items wanted

Yesterdays Furniture
Best prices given for single items or houses cleared.
Scrap Gold Jewellery.
Call: 01384 482155 or 07802 475693

A BEST CASH PRICE

FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS
Any gauge or age
Hornby/Bachmann/Bowmans/ Roundhouse/Graham/Farsh/ any live steam. Also Die Cast, Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.
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thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com



A BEST CASH PRICE PAID FOR DIE CAST CARS / LORRIES / TOY SOLDIERS
Air fix, Britains, Corgi, Dinky, Spot on, Tri-ang. Best prices paid. Any condition. Collections bought.
Telephone 01922 327897 or 07976 691563.

AUTO MEMORABILIA WANTED
SHELL, ESSO, CASTROL ETC

ALSO GARAGE CLEARANCES
Old Enamel Signs, Petrol Cans, Old Jugs, Classic Car Parts, Bikes and Motorbikes. Anything old.

**** TOP PRICES PAID ****
01384 836219/07891 713547

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

WANTED Any Enoch Powell Memorabilia.
Telephone 01666 837747.

WANTED super 8 films, Bitter Sweet, Funny Lady, Heller Skeller trailers, No Name City Promo. Zep-peling Promo. Call 07932 734170.

loans

READERS ARE REMINDED that they may require professional advice before entering into obligations.

t.v. / home entertainment

service

AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST
Any TV Repairs, Plasma, LED etc. CCTV cameras supplied & fitted. Any area. Free Estimates. 7 days. Digital aerials, Sky installation. Wall mounts / TV setups. 07850 330251.

specialists at your service

aerials

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alarms/security

PREMIER ALARMS

Supplied and Fitted £249
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!

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DAVIES & SON BUILDERS

Over 35 years exp
All aspects of building work
Extensions, loft conversions, roofing,
driveways & landscaping.
Discounts offered.

01902 579592 / 07837 994465

Brickwork Maintenance

Boundary Walls, Steps, Part Rebuilds, Brick
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Lee
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lee@blackcountrybrick.co.uk

carpet & upholstery cleaning

A BRILLCLEAN FOR YOUR CARPETS & SUITES

Special offers for June/July
OAP discounts.
Call Steve on
07496 923234

double glazing

AT S DOUBLE GLAZING

UPVC Doors & Windows
Very competitive prices, family run
FREE QUOTES & OAP DISCOUNTS
01922 442720 or 07783 229386

electrical services

STEVE JONES ELECTRICAL
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All domestic and commercial work.
07786 859877/01902 846167.

fencing

PORTWAY FENCING

SPECIAL OFFER
10 Bays of quality fencing, concrete posts,
gravel boards. £695
Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 9am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, W'bury
DELIVERY AVAILABLE
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happy with the
service I get from
my Express & Star
Classified Sales
Representative
and I would
recommend them
to anyone!"

Michael -
Portway Fencing.

For great business
results call
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Brought to you by Express & Star

gardening services

GREENALY LANDSCAPES

Fencing Decking Slabbing
Turfing Block Paving
Brick Work
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GARDENS TIDIED from £5 per
garden. 25 years experience. Call
01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

gas fitting

READERS ARE ADVISED
To check that anyone
carrying out any Gas work is
Gas Safe Registered.
It is an offence under the Gas
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Regulations 1998 to carry out
gas work in the UK without
being on the Gas Safe Register.

house clearances

**ABSOLUTELY
ANYTHING CLEARED
FULL OR PART, GARAGES
AND SHEDS RUBBISH
REMOVED WASTE LICENCE**
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A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid
for house clearances and bereave-
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07852 172541 / 07710 350327

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LOVE 2 WALL PAPER
Reliable & Friendly, Professional
Female Painters & Decorators
Attention to detail, competitive prices.
For the Perfect Finish with minimum hassle.
Plastering & Coving Work Undertaken
01384 287577 or 07812 484194
www.love-2-wallpaper.co.uk

plastering

M & S PLASTERING & BUILDING
Services. Home/Garden Improve-
ments. Mark or Sara: 07741 770987

removals

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12 years experience.
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
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KINGSWINFORD REMOVALS AND HOUSE CLEARANCES

We move anything.
Professional service,
45 years' experience,
DFS approved and we
take the stress away.
Please call:
07966 281957

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your
Removal needs. 07429 453089/
01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

CALL IAN. Man with a large van.
No job too small, no distance too
far. 07973 628534, 01902 891535.

rubbish removal

LET'S TALK RUBBISH No Skips
Needed/Load/Remove any Waste,
House Clearance. 07969 628382

skip hire

BIG JOHN MOVES RUBBISH!
No Skips, we load, fast friendly
service. 25 Lister Rd, Dudley DY2
8JR, Est 35 years, 01384 232359.

4 Pets & Animals

pets corner

NOTICE TO READERS

Please be aware that when
purchasing a puppy there are
some simple guidelines you can
follow to ensure that you are not
purchasing from a Puppy
Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the
puppy whilst it is still with it's
Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a
puppy from any other location
than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any
KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News
Association publications take
great care to avoid publication
of advertisements from Puppy
Farmers we cannot accept any
liability should readers
purchase from this kind of
establishment.

GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS

All neutered, inoculated
and microchipped.
Call 01922 412212 or
www.rgtwolverhampton.co.uk
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ROSEDENE RESCUE CENTRE

1, Radley Road, Rushall,
Walsall, WS4 1LN.
01922 627013.
Open Monday to Saturday
11am - 5pm.
Sundays - Bank Holidays
11am - 4pm.
Takes in relinquished dogs
from owners, all areas (if they
are vet checked/up to date with
jabs.)
Donations of dog food, toys,
bedding and vet bills always
appreciated.

5

Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to
take appropriate professional
advice, before entering into any
obligations.

6

Property

properties wanted

YOUR PRICE, MY TERMS
I BUY HOUSES.
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01384 686 050
mary@gotaproperties.com

Home Cash Buyer

Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish
£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££

Houses / Land Required

Ring Paul 24/7 Local 07870 341 089
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Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
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We can help you
make a fresh start
With solutions to suit ...
you can clear your debts
and make a fresh start

MARION | PROPERTY SOLUTIONS
WHY NOT CALL US TODAY
for an informal, friendly and confidential chat?
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FAST CASH FOR YOUR PROPERTY

Repossession stopped
Houses bought in any condition
Legal fees paid
Probate Estates Welcome
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CASH PAID WITHIN DAYS!

0800 121 6007

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Friendly, local company here to help you 7 days a week. Est. 10 years.

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accommodation to let

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek
independent legal advice before
entering into any financial commit-
ments/contracts.

NOTICE TO READERS
It is an offence under the Accom-
modation Agencies Act 1983, for an
Agency to charge a fee simply for
the registration of your require-
ments and/or supplying particulars
of premises to let.

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek
independent legal advice before
entering into any financial commit-
ments.

7

Jobs

employment wanted

EXPERIENCED Bricklayer requires
employment. All types of brickwork.
Contact 07341 021774.

CV MATCHING.

IT'S QUICK, EASY AND FREE

Real opportunities for you

jobs.expressandstar.com

Charity No 701638 Company No: 2291925

Volunteers Needed

Advisers, Info Hub Receptionists, Supervisors
For services in Stourbridge, Dudley, Brierley Hill and Halesowen.
Telephone Assessors (Brierley Hill)
Do you have good communication & IT skills and are you able to commit to one or two days per week?

Full training and ongoing support given.
We are also looking for Trustees
Do you have 2-3 hours a month to spare and want to be involved on a more strategic level? Do you have experience in IT, fundraising, marketing or public relations?

Find out more at our information session:
Wednesday 5th July - Starts at 10am (60-90 minutes)
Brierley Hill Citizens Advice (1st floor in the Library)
Closing date - Midday Wednesday 12th July
For an application pack and role descriptions please email: volunteer.admin@dudleycabx.org

8

Motoring

cars under £1500

FORD KA
2008, 08 reg, 73,000 miles,
MoT March 2018,
service history,
metallic lilac,
stereo, power steering, clean
and tidy, drives well.
Offers £775 ono.
07946 835467.

4X4

HONDA CRV 4WD ESTATE

2002, black,
2.0 petrol, tow bar,
125,000 miles,
8 months MoT,
any trial.
£795 o.n.o.
07592 076079

1ST TO SEE WILL BUY

FORD FOCUS CLIMATE

2006, 1.6, blue, alloy wheels,
11 months MoT, 107,000 miles,
electric windows, reversing
sensors, new clutch, excellent
runner, very reliable, many new
parts, runs perfect.
£1,495 ono.
07707 202385.

courses

BIRMINGHAM: 25-26 SEPT. & 30 NOV-1 DEC.
also STOKES ON TRENT: 2-3 SEPT. and TELFORD: 23-24 OCT.

Learn how to take blood TRAIN AS A PHLEBOTOMIST

awarding a Nationally Recognised
Certificate in Phlebotomy

- Two day course
- First step onto Allied Healthcare Career Path
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www.geopace.com

HIGH DEMAND IN: Hospitals - GP Surgeries - Clinics - Private Sector - Community

full time - general

Volunteers Needed

Advisers, Info Hub Receptionists, Supervisors

For services in Stourbridge, Dudley, Brierley Hill and Halesowen.

Telephone Assessors (Brierley Hill)

Do you have good communication & IT skills and are you able to commit to one or two days per week?

Full training and ongoing support given.

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Motoring

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FORD KA
2008, 08 reg, 73,000 miles,
MoT March 2018,
service history,
metallic lilac,
stereo, power steering, clean
and tidy, drives well.
Offers £775 ono.
07946 835467.

4X4

HONDA CRV 4WD ESTATE

2002, black,
2.0 petrol, tow bar,
125,000 miles,
8 months MoT,
any trial.
£795 o.n.o.
07592 076079

1ST TO SEE WILL BUY

FORD FOCUS CLIMATE

2006, 1.6, blue, alloy wheels,
11 months MoT, 107,000 miles,
electric windows, reversing
sensors, new clutch, excellent
runner, very reliable, many new
parts, runs perfect.
£1,495 ono.
07707 202385.

MAZDA MX5 EUPHONIC

1597cc, five speed, power
windows, power steering, leather
seats, excellent hood, alloys,
MoT March 2017.
£1,495.
07546 779139.

MUST BE SEEN

NISSAN MICRA

Red, 1999, 11 months MoT,
owned 5 years,
Many new parts.

£495 ono.

01902 845443.

GOOD RUNNER

NISSAN MICRA TEMPEST

2002, petrol, silver,
9 months MoT,
new tyres,
radio, good runner,
£325 ono.
01384 637110, after 4pm.

PEUGEOT 206

CONVERTIBLE CABRIOLET
2005.
Manual.
1.6. 44,000 miles.
Air Con. FSH.
12 months MoT.
black leather seats.
Silver blue.
£1,150 ono.
01384 823449.

BARGAIN

RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE DCI

100 1.5cc
Diesel,
2003 Reg,
3Dr,
MoT November 2017,
black.
£425.
07521 411373.

RENAULT CLIO. 1.2

2006, 52,000 Miles, Silver ,
electric windows, air bag,
alarm, 12 month MoT, metallic
paint, central locking, 4 New
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Metallic blue, alloy wheels,
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Hartson nets from the spot against Wolves in 2006



John Hartson celebrates a goal for the Baggies with Nathan Ellington



Hartson enjoys a charity golf day with Stiliyan Petrov and Jon Whitney



Hartson talks candidly about his battle with cancer

Hartson's giving back after battle from brink

FORMER Albion striker John Hartson took no prisoners as a centre forward and doesn't pull any punches when he talks about the day he was told he had cancer.

"I thought I was going to die," he says candidly.

It was back in 2009 that the former Arsenal, Celtic and Wales striker had his worst fears confirmed.

He opened up about his diagnosis and also how it affected his time at The Hawthorns.

Now doing everything he can to raise awareness of testicular cancer through the John Hartson Foundation – there is a reason why the former striker spends most of his time doing charity work.

"I had a lump on my testicles for around four years before I went to see a doctor," the now 42-year-old said. "I know a lot of men are like that. You ignore it. You hope it's going to go away. I was boyish, I wasn't mature enough to face it.

"But that is what I want to change. My testicular cancer had spread to my lungs and brain. When I found out, I sat in my car and I cried.

Waste

"I thought that was it. I wasn't told I had a cold or something. It was cancer and cancer takes good people away from us. I was heartbroken. I was 32 years old and I thought, 'I can't dodge this bullet.'"

Hartson's cancer was at such an advanced stage there was no time to waste. Within days he was undergoing brain surgery. He then stopped breathing after contracting pneumonia.

For a month, hospital staff primarily worked to keep him alive rather than treat the cancer.

For Hartson himself, that time is now something of a blur – but he says he cannot forget the impact it had on his family.

"Cancer turns everybody's world upside down," he continued. "It was horrific. Your family members and your close friends actually feel it more than you, the patient.

"The patient is wired up to a machine. You are normally very heavily sedated. But it's your mum and dad, your brother, your sister, your kids – they are taking it home. They are living with it 24/7. My family

SPORTING MEMORIES

By Joe Masi

"I feel very lucky to have lived and that is why I want to give something back. We have had fantastic support."

were asking 'Is John going to live or die today? He has got a big operation tomorrow, a brain operation – is he going to survive?'"

Survive he did. Seven operations – including two on his brain – together with 65 sessions of chemotherapy saw the Swansea-born star defy the odds.

And now he's doing everything he can to make sure more men examine themselves and visit a doctor at the first sign of trouble.

Following his return to health, he launched the John Hartson Foundation to raise awareness of testicular cancer. In typically bullish Hartson fashion, the charity runs with the slogan 'Grab Life by the Balls' and has already raised more than £700,000 to help men diagnosed with the disease.

"I feel very lucky to have lived and that is why I want to give something back," Hartson said. "I set up the charity in 2010 and we have had fantastic support. I am very proud of the money we have raised. But it's more about the awareness."

In a glittering playing career Hartson won 51 caps for Wales and scored more than 100 goals for Celtic.

It was while a youngster at Luton that he first rose to prominence – with his impressive performances persuading Arsenal to make him the most expensive teenager in British football history.

"That was huge," Hartson recalled. "They paid £2.5million for me. George Graham signed me and I'll never forget travelling to Highbury in David Pleat's car.

"I didn't have an agent at the time and David Pleat's phone was ringing every five minutes and he just kept pressing the cancel button because he didn't

want to give the move away. I went from £275 a week at Luton to something like £4,000 a week at Arsenal. But that didn't matter. I knew I would make money in my career if I realised my potential. For me it was all about the opportunity and playing for such a fantastic football club."

Following his time with the Gunners, Hartson moved to West Ham and still holds the record of being the last player to score 20 Premier League goals in a season for the Hammers.

That prompted Wimbledon to pay £7.5million for his services in 1999 before he then enjoyed huge success at Celtic. But despite an outstanding career, Hartson admits he wished he performed better in his time as an Albion player.

"I loved it at West Brom and it all started so great for me," he said. "Bryan Robson signed me and Kevin Phillips on the same day. I came from Celtic and had several chats with Bryan over the summer.

"I had Zoltan Gera on one side and Jonathan Greening on the other side. Bryan said you'll get great delivery. It started really well but I do genuinely believe that I was carrying cancer at the time.

Problems

"Bryan then lost his job after seven games. Tony Mowbray came in and I knew all about him because I had played against his Hibs when I was at Celtic.

"The truth is I let Tony down because I wasn't the player he saw at Celtic. I was going through a divorce, I was having a few personal problems.

"But the West Brom fans and everyone at the club were fantastic to me.

"I look back now and West Brom was probably the only club, and I played for eight clubs, where the fans did not see the best of me.

"I had a wonderful career and worked with some seriously talented players and managers. But at Albion it didn't go as well as I would have liked.

"It's shame I couldn't excel there and be the player I was previously because I loved being a Baggie."

Hartson is now enjoying life working with his charity and also in the media.

"I have got five kids, a beautiful wife and I live in Edinburgh. I'm just so grateful to be here, it's amazing to think where I am now to where I was on that day I got my diagnosis."

Wednesfield up – but say sorry over leak

WEDNESFIELD have secured promotion to the West Midlands Premier Division after winning their FA appeal. However, the club has apologised over the disclosure of confidential documents during the hearing.

Members of the club's hierarchy travelled to Wembley to appeal against the decision to refuse them promotion to the league's top tier.

Dean Gill's side finished as runners-up in Division One. But following inspection on their Cottage Ground earlier in the season, the club were denied promotion.

After lodging an appeal and meeting FA chiefs at the headquarters in London, the governing body agreed to send down independent inspectors to the Cottage Ground. The inspector was sent to determine whether the stadium meets Premier Division requirements.

But after accidentally releasing confidential documents during the hearing, the club has issued an apology.

"During our appeal Wednesfield disclosed information about the hearing," a statement said.

"This information was private and confidential. We would therefore like to apologise to the FA and the WMRL for this error."

Canoeing club makes waves at competition

A CANOEING club made a splash at the National and Open Master Sprint Championship Regatta, with a number of successes.

Gailey Canoe Club won four golds, two silvers and one bronze in the competition at the National Water Sports Centre in Nottingham.

Bruce Blackman and Paul Brookes claimed silver in the K2, or two person kayak, 200m and 1000m sprints. They posted times of 45.37 seconds and four minutes, nine seconds – despite receiving a penalty point. That was followed by a bronze in the 500m, finishing with in 1:58.

Success followed in the under-12s lightning category, with Haydn Cooke-Bayley being part of three winning teams. He won gold in the K1, or one person kayak, and triumphed in the K2 with Lewis Andrews, from Leamington Spa.

Cooke-Bayley also won the K4, or four person kayak, category alongside club members Molly Cooke, Madison Cooke and Andrews.

In the women's races, Chelsea Brookes struck gold in the K2 200m with Kate Gritsinina from Southampton – the first time they had paddled together. Club secretary Louise Clive said: "We are delighted that the hard work of our members has paid off."

Football club's brace of community awards

WYRLEY Juniors FC has secured a double success. The club was awarded the Staffordshire FA Community Club of the Year – and secured the same accolade for the north west region, which covers Manchester, Liverpool, Lancashire, Cumbria and Cheshire counties as well as Staffordshire.

The awards were presented at the FA awards at Stoke City's Bet365 Stadium. They recognise the club's efforts in increasing participation and providing wellbeing sessions. Wyrley's teams have grown in two years from 48 to 65, and will rise to 70 next season.

Wyrley Juniors runs two soccer schools, has become a sister club to Birmingham City Ladies and holds mash-up sessions for girls at a local high school. It assisted UEFA in a girls' motivation study and it is actively involved in the new county female coaching group.

In the community it organises coffee mornings, donates Christmas presents to Birmingham Children's Hospital, distributes items to foodbanks and raises £1,000 a year for the Royal British Legion via its stick-on poppy appeal. Anyone interested in joining the club should contact chairman Keith Hardy on 07836 202764.



Summers' Sky TV shot for title glory

RICKY Summers' backers will be quids in if their man becomes the British light heavyweight champion on Saturday.

Tipton's Summers is 10-1 with most bookmakers to take the belt away from defending titlist Frank Buglioni this weekend. And the 29-year-old believes he can upset the odds and seize the crown away from the former world title challenger.

The two clash at the top of the bill at the 02 Arena in London, with Matchroom Boxing's end-of-season show broadcast live on Sky Sports.

Summers is unbeaten with 13 wins from 13 pro bouts with five TKOs, although he's never boxed outside of the West Midlands in the paid ranks.

Buglioni, 28, has 19 wins with 15 stoppages with two defeats and one draw, with one of those losses on points to Fedor Chudinov for the WBA world title at super middle.

He's also been beaten and halted in six by Siarhei Khamitski for the WBO European crown and drawn with Lee Markham for the same honours.

The Londoner is plotting the road past his voluntary defence and is even talking about a rematch with Hosea Burton, who he stopped in the 12th round for the British title.

Summers' fans think looking past his immediate test is disrespectful, but the challenger is of the opinion it's only mind games.

He said: "They don't call him 'the Wise Guy' for nothing, he's a smart kid. He probably wants to think that he's underestimated me. I've seen on social media that he is training hard and I'm expecting the best Frank Buglioni on the night. That's what I want."

"It's days away now and I'm excited, I couldn't ask for a bigger stage and to be in the main event, live on Sky Sports, will be a dream come true."

Hopes not gone for a Burton as Heathens search

CRADLEY boss Will Pottinger says they are "putting all their efforts" into finding a replacement for injury victim Ryan Burton.

Burton broke his collarbone in five places after a crash whilst guesting for SGB Championship side Scunthorpe on Sunday.

He is now set for a lengthy spell on the sidelines but Pottinger insists they won't let his injury hold them back ahead of a crucial run of Travel Plus National League fixtures.

With a trip to Stoke on Sunday (6pm) followed by a home clash with Buxton the following day (7.30) and a local derby with Birmingham 48 hours later, he is determined to resolve the issue sooner rather than later.

The Heathens boss said: "It's quite a complicated break from what I'm led to believe from Ryan, so it looks like he'll be out for quite a few weeks."

"We don't want to let it derail the clubs' play-off push, so we're aiming to get a good replacement in until Ryan is fit enough to get into the team."

Grow The Game grant boosts Town

DUDLEY TOWN are looking to continue their rapid growth as a club after being awarded a £4,500 grant which attracted praise from England boss Gareth Southgate.

The 'Grow the Game' grant - a £2.5m programme funded by the FA and the Football Foundation - will go towards creating more opportunities for youngsters, developing coaches and new equipment.

Former Villa defender Southgate, who is a Football Foundation ambassador, said: "I am so pleased that Dudley Town Football Club has secured this Grow the Game grant."

"The club has worked very hard with Birm-

Football

ham County FA and the Football Foundation to get more local people playing football so that they can enjoy the many physical and mental benefits that come with playing regular sport."

The Robins have put in plenty of work to develop their youth section and, in just a couple of years, they have gone from having five junior sides to 15 for the upcoming season.

And with the grant, club secretary Dave Ferrier is hoping to provide opportunities to young players through a 'mini kickers' scheme, and also to

girls and disabled youngsters.

"At the moment, this season coming up, it is 15 youth teams that we have - and that is a huge stride forward for us," said Ferrier.

"We made a conscious decision to grow our youth section over the last 12 to 18 months. We got a head of youth development in Scott Holden and he's really helped get our name out there."

"We have grown from four or five teams to 15 in a short space of time, and the grant will help us move further forward. We would like to look at developing mini kickers, on the girls side and for disabled kids. We want to diversify and cater to all children of all abilities - that's our aim."

TENSE FINISH BUT STOUR WIN

A NERVE jangling finish that went to the wire ended as a narrow victory for Stour against Sentinel, one of the leading contenders for the division three title of the Birmingham and District league.

Captain Josh Banks won the toss for Stour and decided to field first. Pacesman Jade Richter stepped up to the mark by taking the wicket of David Laird in the opening over for a duck.

He also accounted for the other opener Mathew Richards bowled for 20. In Richter's first spell of eight overs, he took two wickets at a cost of 30 runs.

Jitesh Jivan -Patel bowled number three Joe Yapp (38), Zain Ul Hassans had Malcolm Serplet (8) and Craig Heath (0/1) caught to account for the top order.

In Richter's second spell he blew away the lower order only Jamie Wear (40) survived to top score after being dropped in the slips early in his innings.

Yorked

Opposition bowled out off 37 overs giving Stour additional 18 overs to reach the total. Richter ended with 12 overs, seven wickets for 41 runs.

Stour's reply was just as rickety at one stage they were 87-7 having lost the opener Harshad Patel (0) in the opening over[] yorked by Laird. Their team still 48 runs adrift.

Brothers Mikesh and Jitesh Jivan-Patel took the score from 90 for 8 to 121 for 9 when Mikesh was judged lbw for five off 48 deliveries falling to Shane Guilt, Jitesh not out on 17.

Last man Feraz Irfan walked to the crease his side requiring 15 more runs for victory. Jivan-Patel took as much of the strike as he could whilst Irfan blocked out 18 balls to end not out on zero.

The opportunistic Jivan-Patel snicked singles whenever he could towards the target taking his score to 32 not out off 73 balls, bailing his team out to an unlikely win. Laird finished his spell 17 overs, 4-53.

Stourbridge are at home to visitors Handsworth on Saturday, noon start.

Get kick from Keegan night



Mayor Dave Tyler and organiser Steve Saul with a signed Kevin Keegan shirt

FOOTBALL legend Kevin Keegan will appear in an Evening With . . . in Brierley Hill later this year.

The night with the 66-year-old former England player and manager takes place at The Copthorne Hotel on October 19. He will talk about his long and eventful career in the game.

Tickets cost £60 and include a three-course meal and feature a charity raffle and auction with proceeds being split between the Mayor of Dudley's chosen charities - Dudley Mind, YMCA Black Country Group and Dudley Alzheimer's Society.

Keegan enjoyed a successful playing career with the likes of Liverpool, Hamburg and New-

castle before going into management. He came within a whisker of leading Newcastle to the Premier League title in the mid-90s before landing the England job in 1999. However, he lasted only 18 months and quit after a defeat against Germany at Wembley.

Mayor of Dudley Councillor Dave Tyler said: "As a lifelong Liverpool fan, Kevin Keegan is one of my all-time footballing heroes."

"He is one of the most colourful characters in the game and will have plenty to talk about from his time both as a player and a manager."

It will be an honour to meet him and it promises to be a great night."

Tickets are available on 01902 244220.

Glassboys snap up new midfielder

STOURBRIDGE FC have snapped up accomplished 24-year old midfielder Connor Gater from Worcester City ahead of their return for pre-season training this Saturday.

Gater had attracted interest from other clubs over the summer, but the Glassboys have landed his services after he impressed in a three-month loan stint at the War Memorial Ground last season, despite suffering from a troublesome toe injury at the time.

He has since undergone surgery and has been undertaking rehab.

The former England schoolboys under 18 international linked up with Stourbridge towards the end of October 2016 and he started in the draw away at Whitehawk in the F A Cup first round before making a telling contribution as a substitute against Northampton Town in December and he also featured late on as a sub at Wycombe Wanderers.

Stourbridge have been advised by West Bromwich Albion that the scheduled opening friendly match away to the Baggies under 23 team on Saturday, July 8 will not be open to spectators at their training ground.

This means that supporters' first opportunity to run their eyes over Gary Hackett's new-look squad will be on Tuesday, July 18, when the club will welcome Birmingham City's Under 23s to the War Memorial Ground.

The Stourbridge FC Development Centre is launching a new mini-Glassboys group for five-year-olds. They are looking for the next generation of future Stourbridge players to start their footballing journey with the club.

The children will train and play friendlies, all within a fun learning environment. Parents/guardians should e-mail headofdevelopment@stourbridgefc.com to register interest.

Black Country trio in German triathlon

THIS weekend Dusseldorf hosted the European Sprint Distance Triathlon Championships where three Black Country Triathletes were competing having previously qualified in their age group.

The race involved a 750m swim in the Medien Hafen, followed by a one lap cycle of 20.7km then a 5km run.

Reece Ashfield finished in 1:12:46, the fifth Brit home and ninth in the 16-19 age group. Keith Bate in at 1:19:22, was first Brit and 13th in the 60-64 age group and Lauren Evans finished in 1:21:18, sixth Brit and 17th in the 20-24 age group.

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The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketter, Telford. Thursday, June 29, 2017

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